OUR 66TH YEAR

DECEMBER 2019

TRUE WEST

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Heroes & Patriots presents
Geronimo: Legendary War Chief and Shaman

On March 6, 1858, the family of Goyahkla "The One Who Yawns" was killed by soldiers from Mexico. Having lost his mother, wife, and three children, the most of anyone else from the village, he was chosen to lead the war party to seek revenge on the soldiers. During the bloody conflict, he struggled with a Mexican soldier. Victorious, Goyahkla grabbed the soldier's saber and held it in hand along with his knife, ready to fight the next one who dared. He arose to the gazes of his comrades who stood in awe of his ferocity. It was then that the 28-year-old was honored as "War Chief" of the Bedonkohe band of the Chiricahua Apache. Time left him with another name: Geronimo. He never forgave the Mexican people for what happened to his family. It burned with a fire that fueled further conflict and raids on both sides of the border. Eventually, both governments sought his capture. This was how he became one of the most wanted men in North America.

After 28 years, with nearly 8000 men in pursuit at the end, a peaceful solution was accepted on September 4, 1886.

Despite being held as a Prisoner of War of the United States for 23 years, the name Geronimo became infamous. Paraded around the west as a Star Attraction, though always accompanied by guards, Geronimo made many public appearances: wild west shows, private events, the 1904 World's Fair in St Louis, MO, and the Presidential Inaugural Parade for Theodore Roosevelt in 1905.

Geronimo is unique as one of the few Native Americans who was the hardest to capture, most photographed, and legendary. Whether you think of him as a freedom fighter, a man surrounded by mythology, or a man too wild to remain at large, we can all agree that he will forever remain infamous in American History.

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WE TAKE YOU THERE

North to Alaska!

Commercial photographer Henry J. Goetzman, his wife, Mary, and daughter, Edith, followed the gold north to Alaska and Canada in 1897. Henry, with assistance from Mary, had a photo studio in Dawson, Yukon Territory, from 1898 to 1904. At one time he had seven photographers working for him. Mary is credited with this extraordinary photo of the Gold Run Hotel in Dawson, circa 1900.

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TRUE WEST
HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

True West captures the spirit of the West with authenticity, personality and humor by providing a necessary link from our history to our present.

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MAPINATOR EMERITUS: Gus Walker
HISTORICAL CONSULTANT: Paul Hutton
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS:
Tom Augherton, Allen Barra, Leo W. Banks, John Boessenecker, Johnny D. Boggs, Drew Gomber, Kevin Kibsey, Dr. Jim Kornberg, John Langellier, Sherry Monahan, Candy Moulton, Frederick Nolan, Gary Roberts, Mary Doria Russell, Lynda Sanchez, Marshall Trimble, Ken Western, Larry Winget, Linda Wommack
ARCHIVIST/PROOFREADER EMERITUS: Ron Frieling
PUBLISHER EMERITUS: Robert G. McCubbin
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER EMERITUS: Dave Daiss
TRUE WEST FOUNDER: Joe Austell Small (1914-1994)

ADVERTISING/BUSINESS

PUBLISHER & CEO: Ken Amorosano
PRESIDENT: Bob Boze Bell
GENERAL MANAGER: Carole Compton Glenn
SALES & MARKETING DIRECTOR: Ken Amorosano
REGIONAL SALES MANAGERS:
Greg Carroll (*greg@twmag.com*)
Arizona, California, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Nevada & Washington
Cynthia Burke (*cynthia@twmag.com*)
Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah & Wyoming
Sheri Riley (*sheri@twmag.com*)
Colorado, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon, Tennessee & Texas
MARKETING ASSISTANT: Christine Lake

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This cowboy packs a Model No. 3 American, Smith & Wesson's first heavy caliber revolver, made from 1870-72, and a pocket pistol as backups to his 1873 Winchester lever-action rifle. Find this and more Western weaponry on our "Firearms" board.
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"*True West* magazine, you have several articles on Ringo's death, all of which are engaging, informative and enjoyable. Pulling from the known primary resources available helps move forward the discussion (or argument, as it may be) for those who want to take them under unbiased consideration. As always, the BBB artwork adds a lot."

—***Mike Mihaljevich***, Scottsdale, AZ

Bob Boze Bell's *Bruja Wandering #2* is just one of his Daily Whip Outs. Keep up with the man, the myth, the legend with his blog.
Blog.TrueWestMagazine.com

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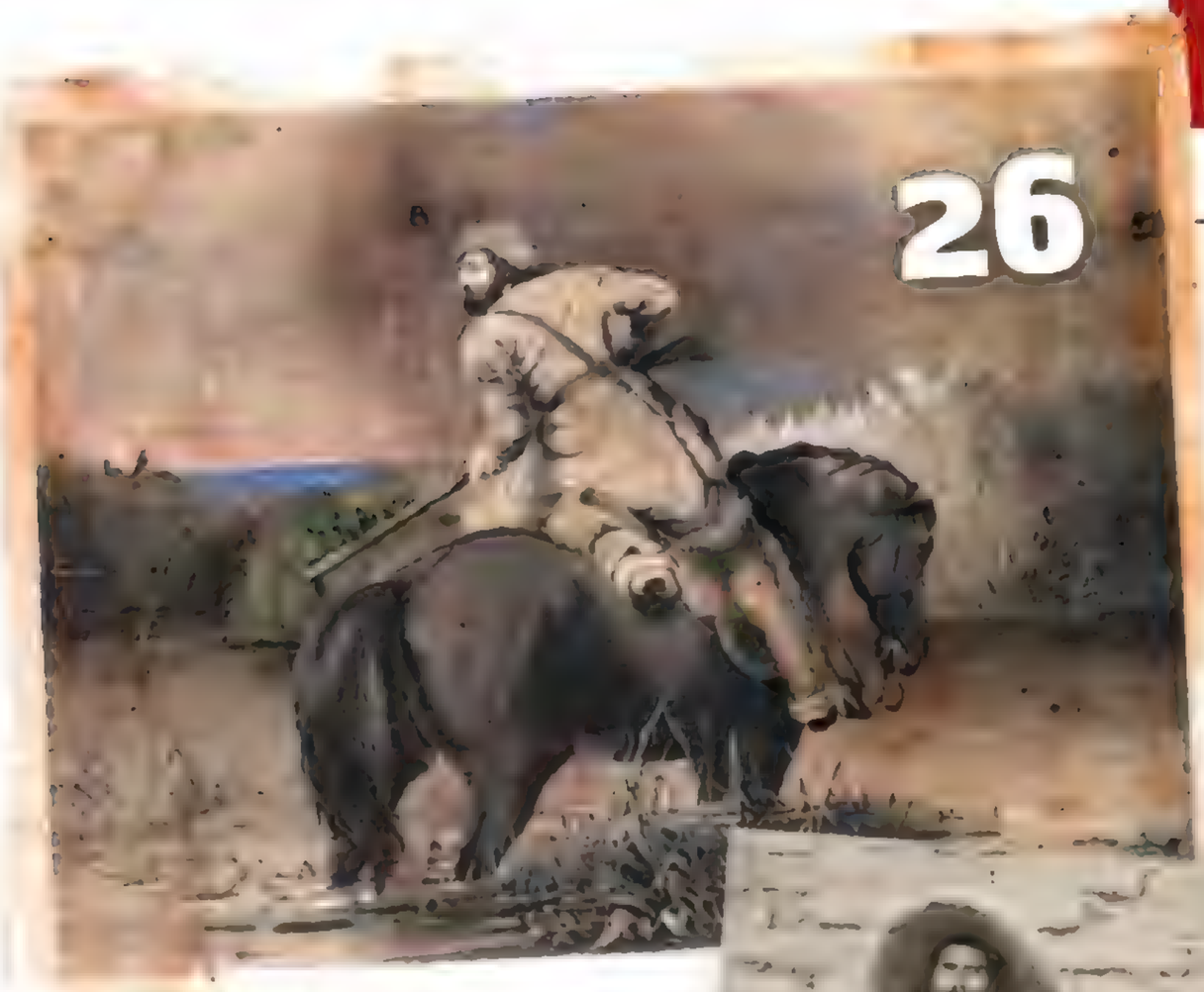
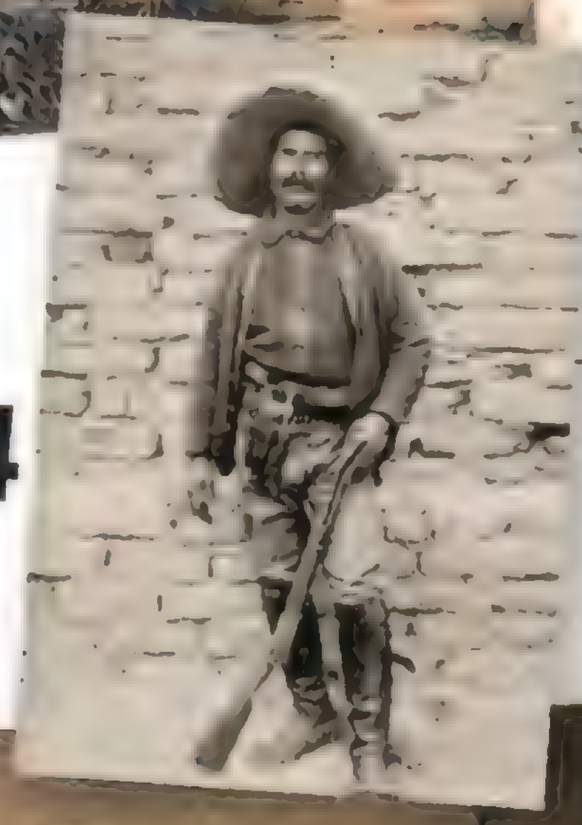
66 THE WONDERS OF THE WEST

Discover our collective past curated and interpreted in the best museums of the Western United States.

—By Stuart Rosebrook and the Editors of True West





Jeremiah Johnson by William Ahrendt
Cover Design by Dan Harshberger

TRUTH BE KNOWN

COMPILED BY ROBERT RAY

Old Vaquero Saying

"When you can't see the future, it's easy to forget the past."

Quotes

Over time, it is all too common for people to lose touch with their heritage, as the thrill and immediacy of the present crowds out the echoes and lessons of the past. It would be a shame if that were to happen with respect to the fur trade. It is a seminal part of who we are as a nation, and how we came to be.

–*Eric Jay Dolin,* Fur, Fortune, and Empire: The Epic History of the Fur Trade in America

---

"It took me 17 years to get 3,000 hits in baseball. I did it in one afternoon on the golf course."

– *Hank Aaron*

"Belief or nonbelief has no power over objective truth."

–*Theodore Sturgeon from his short story* "Dazed" (Galaxy, 09/1971)

"Baseball grew rapidly in favor; the field was ripe. America needed a live outdoor sport, and this game exactly suited the national temperament. It required all the manly qualities of activity, endurance, pluck and skill peculiar to cricket, and was immeasurably superior to that game in exciting features."

– *John Montgomery Ward*

"I defy the annals of chivalry to furnish the record of a life more wild and perilous than that of a Rocky Mountain trapper."

– *Francis Parkman*

"The death-knell of the republic had rung as soon as the active power became lodged in the hands of those who sought, not to do justice to all citizens, rich and poor alike, but to stand for one special class and for its interests as opposed to the interests of others."

– *Theodore Roosevelt*

"That's the problem with the study of history: it's one part magnifying glass, one part cudgel."

– *Stephen Harrigan, in his new book* Big Wonderful Thing: A History of Texas

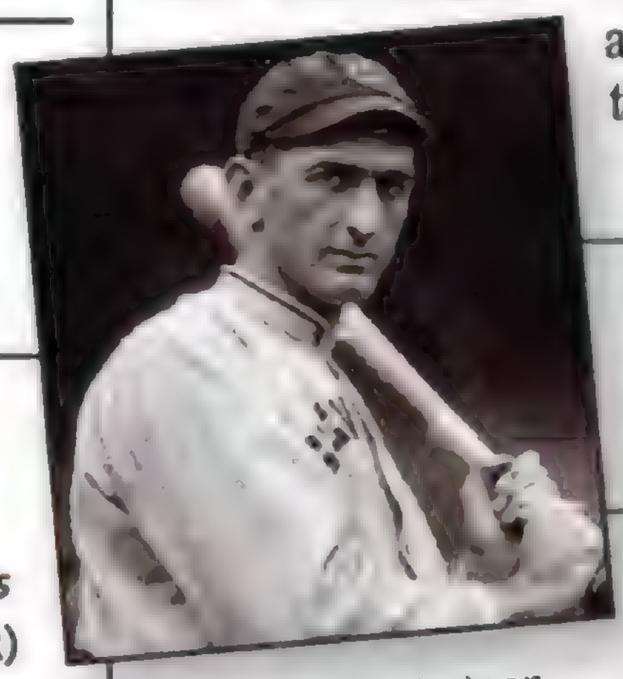
---

"Education isn't something you can finish."

– *Isaac Asimov*

"Habitual watchfulness destroys every frivolity of mind and action. They seldom smile: the expression of their countenances is watchful, solemn, and determined. They ride and walk like men whose breasts have been so long exposed to the bullet and the arrow, that fear finds within them no resting place."

–*Thomas J. Farnham*



"Shoeless" Joe Jackson

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

"Baseball is like church. Many attend, few understand."

– *Leo Durocher*

"I ain't afraid to tell the world that it don't take school stuff to help a fella play ball."

– *Joe Jackson*

Bizarro BY DAN PIRARO

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Twenty Years Running in Front of a Train

It's full steam ahead as we barrel into our third decade.

In the fall of 1999, three moving vans showed up in the wash behind the Goat Sucker Saloon in Frontier Town, Cave Creek, and unloaded 46 years of *True West* magazine back issues.

We got off to a very rocky start, losing a ton of money trying to get the magazine back on its feet, but we somehow, some way, managed to stay the course and here we are, 20 years later, still going strong.

We have some new things to tell you that we are proud about. Thanks to our publisher, Ken Amorosano, we finally scanned every last issue back to 1953 and all of it is available online, right at your fingertips. You just need to sign up at *TWMag.com* and begin to enjoy our digital archives, where you will find every story and every word in the long history of this grizzled and cantankerous publication.

The cover of this issue was painted by someone who has been on the planet even longer than we have, and that is the venerated and classically trained artist, Bill Ahrendt, 86, who still handles a paintbrush every day in his magnificent studio in Pine, Arizona. We visited him last summer and were so impressed with his dedication to artistic authenticity.

I have often compared the running of this magazine to running in front of a train. It is relentless and if you even slow down for a moment, you will be run over. I've had that deadline cowcatcher nipping at my heels on numerous occasions, but the good news is, I'm still hoofing it and we're still publishing.

For a behind-the-scenes look at running this magazine, check out BBB's daily blog at TWMag.com

The original *True West* staff (above) at Clantonville, in early 2000. Only two of us remain and that would be myself in a red shirt, and Carole Compton Glenn, second from right.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

The celebrated artist Bill Ahrendt, in front of his easel, in his sprawling studio, on July 21, 2019.

– COURTESY BOB BOZE BELL –

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Bob Boze Bell

I've been a fan of *True West* for as far back as I can remember. It's one of the reasons I took over publishing the magazine more than 20 years ago.

True West has a vast history and this is another historic achievement. Just recently, we finished scanning all issues back to 1953 and every last one has been uploaded as a digital flipbook.

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BY MARK BOARDMAN

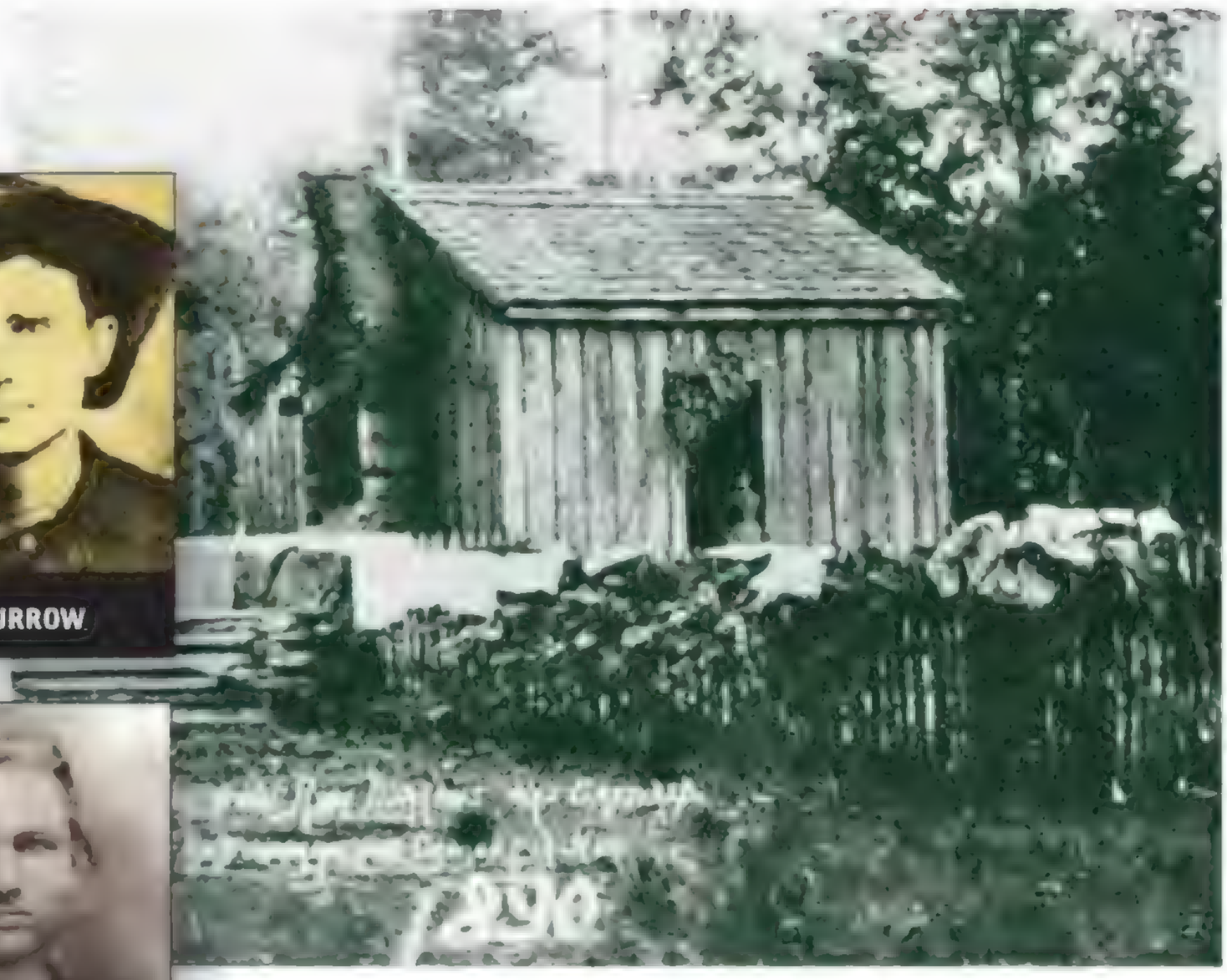
Try, Try Again

The Burrow Gang's first holdup wasn't exactly a success.

The Burrow Gang was one of best-known outlaw outfits in the late 1880s, robbing trains in Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and the Indian Territory. But their first foray into crime was less than stellar.

JIM BURROW

RUBE BURROW



Rube and Jim Burrow led what became a formidable gang. Rube was captured at the George Ford cabin in Marengo County, Alabama, on December 7, 1890. He was killed two days later.

– CABIN PHOTO COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES/PHOTOS OF BURROWS BROTHERS COURTESY MARK BOARDMAN –

On December 11, 1886, Jim and Rube Burrow and a cohort climbed aboard a Fort Worth and Denver train while it stopped at the Bellevue, Texas, watering station. For whatever reason, they ignored the express or mail cars and focused solely on the passengers.

Initially, the bandits frisked each male passenger, but that took too long—so they just demanded that the men fork over whatever they had. Many of the riders knew a holdup was taking place and hid their money and valuables. Tom Wagoner had $400 and an expensive pin on him. He asked a young lady sitting next to him to hide them for him. She asked him where she should put them; he suggested, with some embarrassment, in her stockings. Wagoner lost just 25 cents to the bad guys.

Four soldiers were in the smoking car, guarding two men headed for prison. When they realized that the train was being robbed, they considered fighting the outlaws. But some passengers convinced them to stand down, fearful that innocents might get caught in the crossfire. The soldiers ended up surrendering their weapons without a fight.

The gang finally departed, walking to a nearby house where their horses were tied up. Posses went after them, but the outlaws got away to rob another day. The Burrow Gang nabbed somewhere between $100 and $200 at Bellevue, along with some watches and pistols. Not much of a take, when it was estimated that they missed up to $12,000 in cash.

Some historians think Rube Burrow and the boys acted on the spur of the moment, seeing an opportunity for easy money in the stopped train. Their next attempt, just 43 days later, of a Texas & Pacific train near Gordon, Texas, was better planned and more successful. The gang rode away with between $2,000 and $4,000.

It was the start of a train robbery crime wave; the outfit stuck up trains every four months or so and became the subject of what was then the largest manhunt in Western history. It was just a matter of time until the posses caught up with their targets.

Jim Burrow was captured after a gunfight in the summer of 1888. He died of tuberculosis in jail that October. Rube Burrow escaped from that same fight and continued robbing trains, mostly in the Deep South, for the next two years. On October 7, 1890, he was captured by civilians in Alabama. During an escape attempt, Rube was shot to death by a shop owner.

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Introduced in 2006, the American Buffalo Gold Bullion Coin was the first gold coin struck by the U.S. Mint to be composed entirely of .9999 fine gold (24k). Today, the American Gold Buffalo frequently sells out and is now considered one of the U.S. Mint's greatest coin successes. The artistry and high numismatic value of this coin make it increasingly popular with every passing year. As a tribute to the Native American theme of this exquisite coin, American Mint is proud to present this exclusive museum-quality bowie knife.

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BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

Braggin' Rights

The Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum is the biggest museum in Texas.

"Most people don't realize the depth and the breadth of the museum," Price says.

If your Mama told you not to brag, you probably didn't grow up in Texas—a state where size does matter. After all, it was No. 1 until Alaska came along.

But bragging rights are deserved when it comes to the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, Texas, near Amarillo.

Texas's largest museum isn't shy: "It's so big, you can cover more than 26,000 square miles of Texas, all under one roof."

These days it's approaching three million artifacts that tell so many stories, you can't take it all in on one visit—hence the repeat of some 65,000 annual visitors.

Stephanie Price was in the third grade the first time she walked into the museum with her parents. "I remember looking up and being awed," she said. "It was so big and cool!"

Today, she's marketing director for the museum that traces its history back, astonishingly, nearly 100 years.

It was 1921 when the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society was organized at West Texas State Teachers' College.

Price gives top billing to Hattie Anderson, a history professor she describes as "no nonsense, a woman who took no crap." Anderson and the others—college president Joseph Hill and history chairman Lester Sheffy, plus 36 students and other staff—saw that pioneers were dying off and nobody was doing anything to save the incredible history of their struggles and triumphs.

Their first move was to put out a call—anyone have any relics of pioneer life, natural history or development of the region? Donations flowed in for years, and as legends died, their estates came here—Charles Goodnight made several large contributions; Western artist Harold Bugbee and his wife, Olive, left a $1 million estate.

The Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum is located on the West Texas A&M University campus in Canyon, Texas. Faculty and students founded the museum in 1921, and for nearly a century it has been a regional leader in Southern Plains and Texas history preservation, curation and education.

– COURTESY PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM –

The museum was so instantly popular, it needed expansion in its first year of operation, and in 1933, moved to its permanent home on the campus of West Texas A&M University. Schoolchildren donated pennies to buy bricks for its construction.

"Most people don't realize the depth and the breadth of the museum," Price says.

For instance, "Pioneer Town" has 26 buildings that embody the diversity of the region from 1890 to 1910.

"The People of the Plains" shows what life was like 14,000 years ago for the different cultures who struggled to survive.

The 8,000-item art collection includes works by Frank Reaugh, "the dean of Texas artists" and H.D. Bugbee, "the Charlie Russell of Texas."

"The Panhandle Petroleum Story" tells that part, and the T. Anchor Ranch from 1877 was moved there.

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So brag away!

Jana Bommersbach has earned recognition as Arizona's Journalist of the Year and won an Emmy and two Lifetime Achievement Awards. She cowrote the Emmy-winning *Outrageous Arizona* and has written two true crime books, a children's book and the historical novel *Cattle Kate*.

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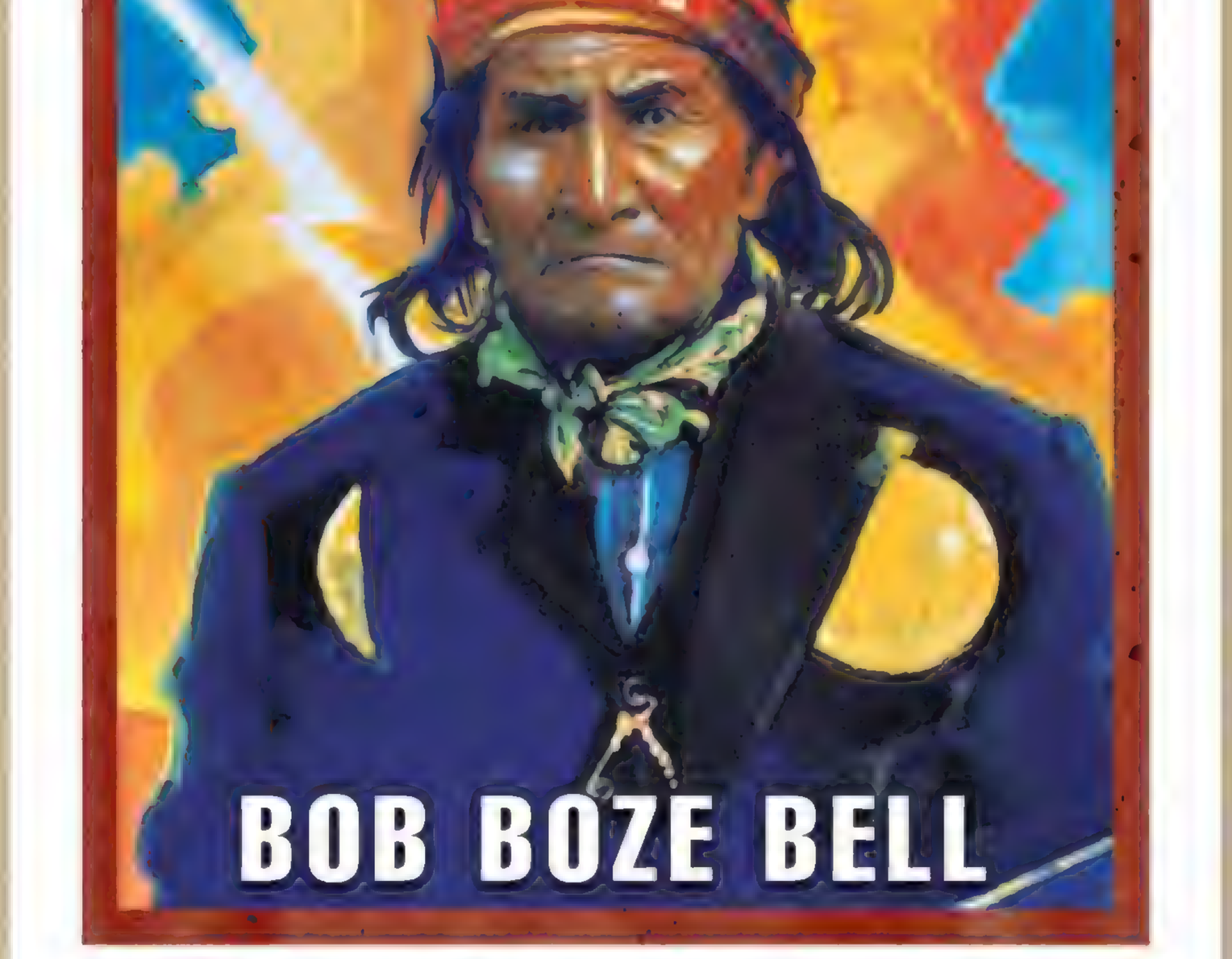
"Many have gone in pursuit of Geronimo, but seldom has anyone demonstrated such zeal and tenacity in the chase as Bob Boze Bell."

—Towana Spivey, Native American Historian, Archeologist & Curator



Hundreds of images never seen before, uncovered facts you've never heard before (Geronimo had ten wives!) and a blow-by-blow account of how he became the most famous In-din in the world.

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BY JOHN LANGELLIER

Classic Western Art Rules the Day

The Coeur d'Alene Art Auction in Reno, Nevada, realized over $17 million.

Frederic Remington's *Casuals on the Range* (1909) sold at auction for $981,750.

– ALL IMAGES COURTESY COEUR D'ALENE ART AUCTION –

I feel fortunate for my career in museums and history. Occasionally, however, I find myself wishing I had worked in a more lucrative field. The July 27, 2019, Coeur d'Alene Art Auction is a case in point. Paintings by some of my favorite artists came on the block.

Their work was viewed and purchased by an overflow audience of nearly 650 packed in at Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada. Described as "the single largest event in the field of classic Western and American Art," the auction sold upwards of 92 percent of the 361 lots. The total with buyer premiums cleared the staggering hurdle of $17 million, with some pieces reaching world records.

Speaking for Coeur d'Alene Art Auction, Stuart Johnson indicated his delight in the results. He acknowledged the success included the fact that many pieces were new to the market. As a corollary, Johnson noted a dozen or more new buyers in the audience, which indicated a refreshing bonus to this year's event.

Whether seasoned bidders, or first-timers, the depth and breadth of the lots represented a virtual who's who of Western artists past and present. Topping off the impressive list at $981,750 (all prices include buyer's premiums) was Frederic Remington's *Casuals on the Range* (1909). This 18-x-26-inch oil on canvas was, as indicated in the impressive auction catalog: "one of about twenty narrative paintings Remington completed in the final year of his life."

Victor Higgins' *Taos in Winter* sold at auction for $833,000.

Joseph Henry Sharp's *Crow Encampment, Montana*, sold at auction for $892,500.

Howard Terpning's *Soldier Chief* (1978) sold at auction for $154,700.

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

December 9-10, 2019
Edged Weapons, Armor & Militaria
Morphy Auctions (Denver, PA)
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January 25-26, 2020-Mesa, AZ
30th Annual Mesa Old West Show & Auction
Brian Lebel's Old West Events (Santa Fe, NM)
OldWestEvents.com • 480-779-9378

February 13-16, 2020
Regional Gun Auction-#1034
Rock Island Auction Company (Rock Island, IL)
RockIslandAuction.com • 800-239-8022

Next in line came Joseph Henry Sharp's 30-x-36-inch oil on canvas *Crow Encampment, Montana*, which sold for $892,500. Another top seller, Victor Higgins' 24-x-30-inch oil on canvas *Taos in Winter* went for $833,000. In turn, Charles M. Russell's stature in the Western artist pantheon meant his *Creased* (1911), a 28-x-23-inch watercolor and gouache on paper, was another highly prized acquisition at $714,000.

While to some degree not as well-known as these three painters, Rosa Bonheur's 44-x-74-inch tempera and pastel on canvas *Emigration de Bisons (Amérique)* (1897) brought a new world record for that artist. When the gavel fell, a fortunate collector paid $773,500 for the magnificent scene.

Living artist Howard Terpning's 40-x-25-inch charcoal on paper *Soldier Chief* (1978) also set a new record for his work at $154,700.

Another living artist, Mian Situ, captured an especially appropriate historic moment given the centennial of the transcontinental railroad's completion. *Golden Spike Ceremony, Promontory Summit, Utah, May 10, 1869*, a 44-x-72-inch oil on canvas, obtained an impressive $386,750.

Finally, John Clymer's 24-x-48-inch oil on canvas *John Colter Visits the Crows 1807* (1975) ranked among the high bids at $416,500.

John Langellier's most recent book, *"Trapdoor" Springfield*, was released last summer by Osprey of Oxford. He currently is completing his next book, *Scouting with the Buffalo Soldiers: Lieutenant Powhatan Clarke, Frederic Remington and the Tenth U.S. Cavalry in the West*.

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BY PHIL SPANGENBERGER

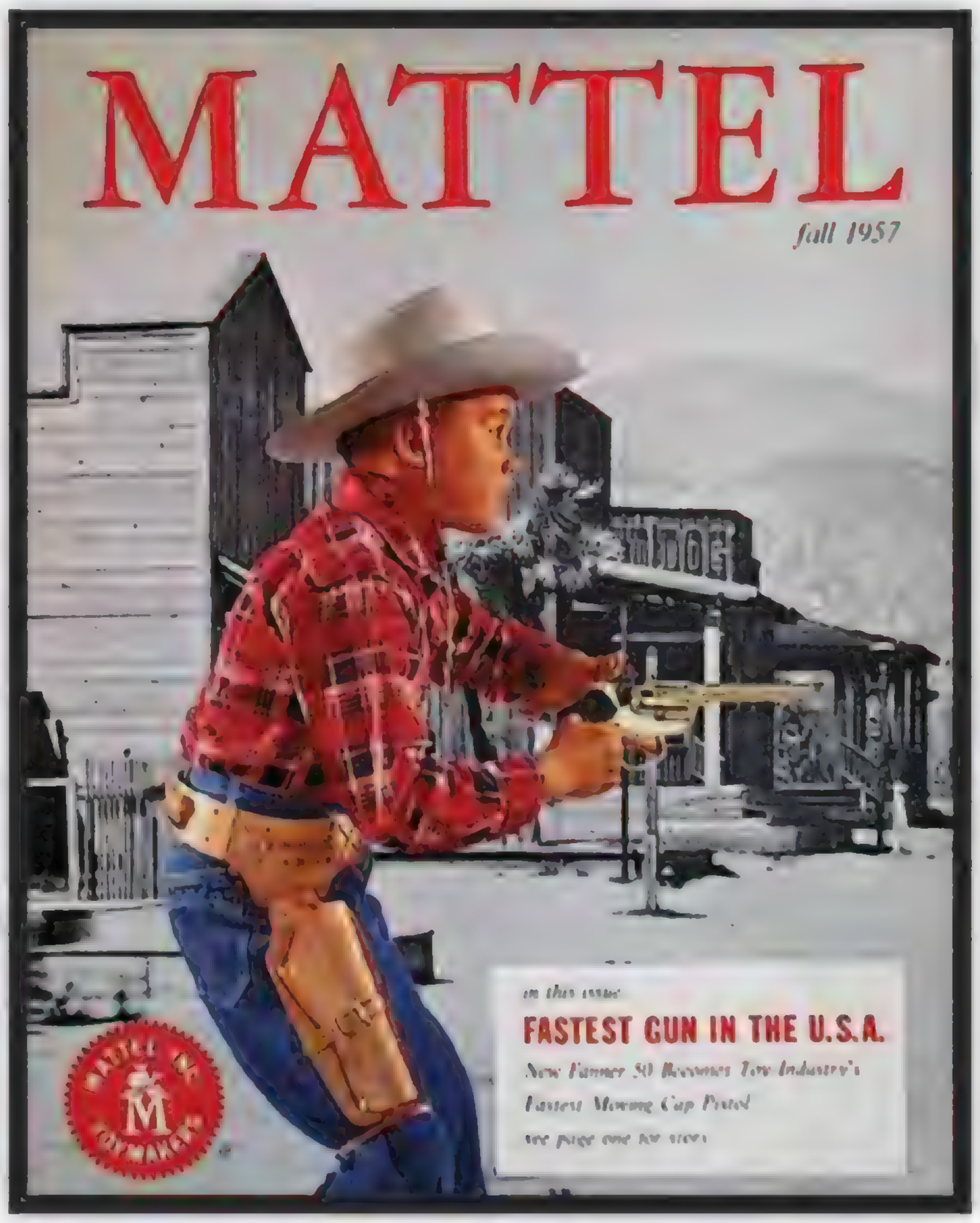
When Cap Guns Were Cool

Back in the 1940s through the 1960s, we kids played outdoors a lot, and we lived our make-believe adventures with the coolest toys ever—cap pistols.

Back when I was a kid, cap guns ran the gamut from the tiniest derringers to pirate pistols, holster-sized cowboy six-guns and cops-and-robbers-style slab-sided semi-auto-type pistols, up to lever-action rifles and even tommy guns and ray guns! Despite the vast array of cap guns available, it was the "Peacemaker-styled" Western six-shooter that was the pièce de résistance. Virtually every toy manufacturer offered one or more cowboy cap pistol.

Cap guns first appeared in the mid-1860s, following the end of the Civil War, when some firearms companies began making toy guns to help compensate for the lost military contracts of the war years. However, it was the movies and television of the 1940s through the 1960s that ushered in the Golden Age of cap guns. Silver screen cowboys Roy Rogers, Dale Evans, Gene Autry and John Wayne, along with fictional range riders like the Lone Ranger, Hopalong Cassidy, the Cisco Kid and Marshal Matt Dillon, stirred our imaginations. Toy companies like Mattel, Hubley, Halco, Nichols—even Britain's Lone Star Toys—kept us properly armed so we could tame our neighborhood frontiers. Some cap guns bore the names of our cowboy heroes and heroines, like Richard Boone's "Paladin" or Gail Davis' "Annie Oakley," while others had Western monikers like the Texan, Mustang, Pioneer, Colt 45 or Stallion 45.

These die-cast metal cap guns were so popular in those bygone days that during one year in the early 1950s, the Hubley Toy Company stated in February of that year, they had sold out all the cap pistols they could produce until the following year! Another, Nichols Industries, claimed it was producing one of its toy derringers every two seconds and could only fill about two thirds of its orders!



Arguably the most popular and best-remembered cap guns were Mattel's Fanner-50 series, first introduced in its Fall 1957 catalog. Mattel's young gunslinger, "Matty Mattel," portrayed by Paul Lars Anderson (shown on catalog cover), appeared in print ads, TV commercials and later in Western films and was undoubtedly the envy of every youngster of that era!

– ALL PHOTOS COURTESY BOB TERRY, WILD WEST TOYS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –

Arguably the most popular and best remembered by anyone who grew up blazing away with those perforated rolls of paper ammo was Mattel's Fanner-50 series (the 50 designation is for the 50-shot rolls of paper caps). The series was introduced in 1957 by Mattel, a little after my own cap gun totin' years, although my youngest brother had several. There were many different Fanner-50s, some with revolving cylinders,

This layout, displayed with a box and 10-roll unit of Kilgore Perforated Roll Caps, reveals just four of the many different Fanner-50s offered during the Golden Age (1940s–1960s) of cap guns. From left, they are a Rango model, an Agent Zero revolver (missing the Mattel grip logo medallion), one of the Chuck Connors Cowboy in Africa cap guns, and the Bullet Loading Fanner-50 (inset shows its original box), that smokes when the metal play-cartridges are fired.

although most did not have that added authentic feature. Fanner-50s lasted until around 1975, coinciding with the cancellation of the last TV Western, *Gunsmoke*, and by the mid-1980s, most of the toy cap gun companies had either ceased toy gun production, or were gone.

Fanner-50s included models like the Ramrod, Cowboy, Gunfighter, a *Lone Ranger* double holster set, Chuck

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The popularity of the TV horse operas of the 1950s and '60s spawned several show-themed cap guns. Halco came out with a double cap gun/holster set named after one of the top Westerns of the era, Richard Boone's Paladin from TV's *Have Gun, Will Travel*.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

Connor's *Cowboy in Africa* double-holster set, and even 1968's *Planet of the Apes* Fanner-50. Mattel produced unique Fanner-50s like the swivel shot trick holster, smoking cap pistol; a Shootin' Shell 45 model that used the Greenie Stik-M-Caps; and the Bullet Loading Fanner-50. This last model took non-firing metal play cartridges. You stuck caps on the backs of each one, which produced smoke when fired. As you can see, there were too many models to list them all here.

Cap guns aren't as popular nowadays as they were back when I was a young'un riding my make-believe range. We now live in a different culture and many adults abhor the thought of their little ones playing with such weaponry. I feel sorry for the kids of this enlightened age who do have toy guns, but are forced to shoot it out with their pals with a hogleg that has an ugly orange plug on the muzzle. To this ol' six-gunner, it just ain't the same. Call me old-fashioned, but I remember when cap guns were cool!

Phil Spangenberger has written for *Guns & Ammo*, appears on the History Channel and other documentary networks, produces Wild West shows, is a Hollywood gun coach and character actor, and is *True West*'s Firearms Editor.

WILD WEST TOYS CAP GUNS

Many firearms and nostalgia enthusiasts enjoy collecting vintage and modern toy cap guns. Since 1997, Wild West Toys, an American manufacturer, has been making the old-style, die-cast metal cap guns, using original 1950s American-made tooling. Owned and operated by Bob and Johnie Terry, who were of great assistance with this column, Wild West Toys offers a wide array of toy cap pistols, lever-action cap rifles, roll caps, cap gun replacement parts, vintage cap guns (when available) and more. For more serious theatrical work, the company also offers a full-size Spanish-import—the John Wayne Single Action Army 45 Cap Gun, that looks and works like the real thing.

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BY WIN BLEVINS

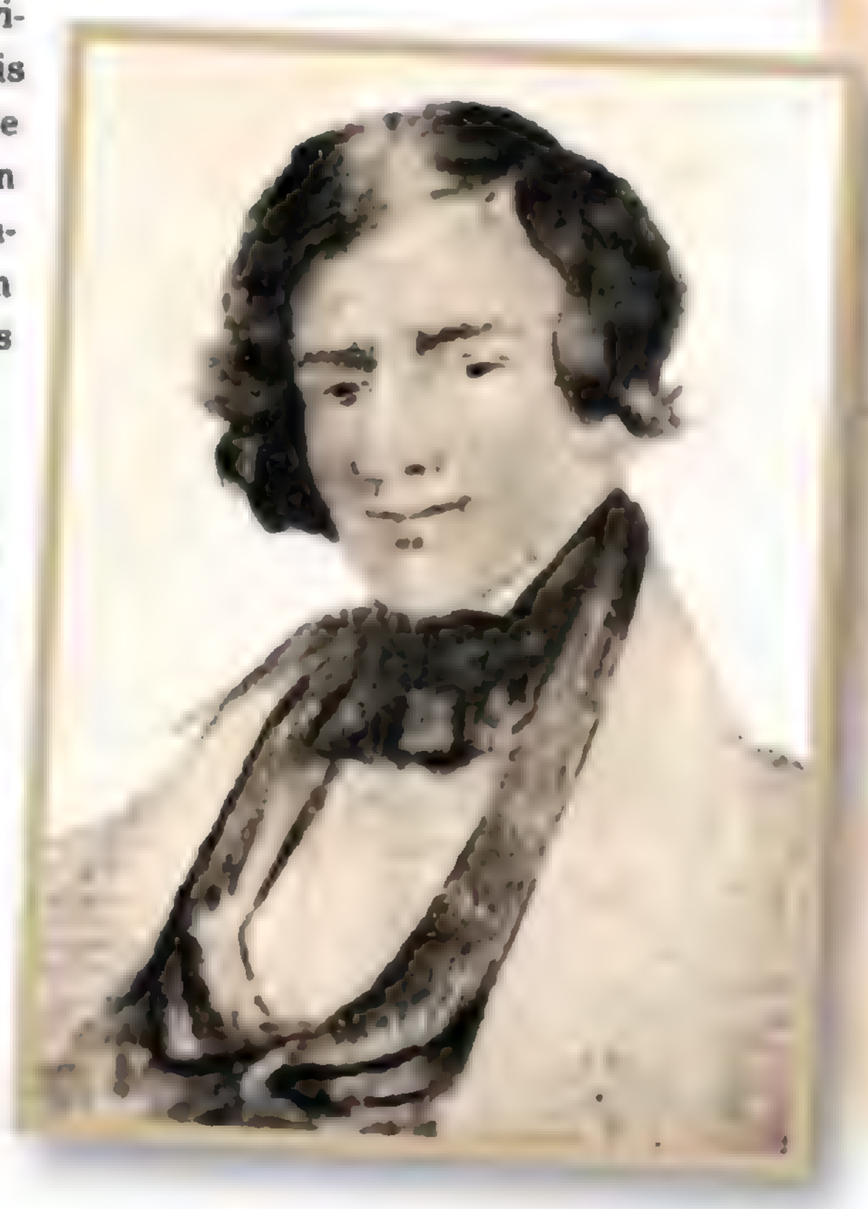
Death of a Mountain Man

JEDEDIAH SMITH'S LAST TRAIL

"Yet was he modest, never obtrusive, charitable, 'without guile,'…a man whom none could approach without respect, or know without esteem. And though he fell under the spears of the savages, and his body glutted the prairie wolf, and none can tell where his bones are bleaching, he must not be forgotten."

Prelude

The anonymous eulogy to Jedediah Smith was published in *Illinois Monthly Magazine* in June 1832. The author's view of Jed Smith's character and motives differs from the views of Maurice S. Sullivan and Dale L. Morgan, the scholars who have worked most fully on his life. I see Smith as a man torn by conflicting allegiances—the values of his church and his society, and the values he learned and lived by in the wilderness. The evidence of his letters to his family seems to be that he judged his life as a mountain man to be wicked; that conviction seems to have been deep and sincere. He seems



A descendent of Puritan New Englanders, Jedediah Strong Smith was born in 1799, the oldest of four brothers, and raised on the edge of the New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio frontiers.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

On May 27, 1831, Jedediah Smith's desperate attempt to find water for his wagon train led him off the main trail of the Cimarron Cutoff of the Santa Fe Trail down Sand Creek, a tributary of the Cimarron River. While watering his horse, with his guard down, Smith was ambushed and killed by a small party of Comanches, after he killed their chief.

- "THE TRAPPER'S LAST SHOT" BY WILLIAM T. RANNEY, COURTESY THE BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY -

to have damned himself for his love of wildness in the same way that settlers would later damn most mountain men for it. So he went home in an attempt to live by his beliefs he professed.

Smith says nothing about his decision to return to the mountains in 1831. Though it was only a partial turning back to his former way of life, I think it expressed a strong-felt need, a need he probably chastised himself for. So what is remarkable here, to me, is the conflict between professed values and the values he actually lived by. When his anonymous eulogist said that Smith made his altar the mountaintop, he meant that as a tribute to Smith's ability to live in Christian faith in the mountains. The irony may be that Smith made the mountaintop his altar in a different sense—that he replaced, symbolically, the altar of the Christian Church with his mountaintop as an object of worship.

I believe that Smith, had he lived, would have been unable to stick to his decision to become a respectable citizen of the settlements.

The Pious Man of the Mountains

Jed had been aware, from the beginning that he was unlike most of the men in the mountains. He was learned, for one thing. He was serious—serious about his religion, serious about turning a profit, serious about writing a book and making maps. He didn't go for debauchery: He stayed away from Indian women and didn't join in the rendezvous carousing. He tried to practice his religion in a profane environment.

Jed, a Christian in the Puritan tradition, regarded making money as one of a man's positive duties, and thought of unused capital as an evil. He now had to decide on some use for his capital. Well, he might go to Ohio and that farm eventually, but he wanted some business venture in the meantime. The role of gentleman farmer may have pulled at his fancy, but not strongly enough. He hired Samuel Parkman, a young man who had gone to the mountains in 1829 and come back with Jedediah, to copy out his journals and help him make his maps. That was one important enterprise.

He also thought that he might go into a partnership with Robert Campbell. He discovered, though, that his Irish friend had gone home to Ireland; Robert's brother Hugh, who lived in Richmond, Virginia, informed Jed that Robert's health was failing again. He wrote to Hugh with good wishes for Robert's well-being and a fervent wish that the two friends might be together again. In the spring, he added, he would still have capital to start a business with Robert.

Younger brothers Peter and Austin had wanted to follow 'Diah to the mountains. Another young man, J. J. Warner, came to Jed for advice on how to become a mountain man; Jed talked him out of such a pagan life. So Jed began to think of the West again—not Absaroka and Cache Valley, this time, but Santa Fe. Maybe he could explore the possibilities of trade with the Mexican provinces.

Jedediah Smith's Christian piety was a moral compass he did not waver from when it came to his relationship with American Indian women during his 10-year career as a fur trapper in the American West.

– "GIVING A DRINK TO A THIRSTY TRAPPER" BY ALFRED JACOB MILLER, COURTESY THE BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY –

He missed the mountains. Writing t o Hugh Campbell on November 24, 1830, just a month back from the mountains, he admitted, "I am much more in my element, when conversing with the uncivilized Man, or Setting My Beaver Traps, than in writing Epistles."

He decided to put off going home. He did miss his father, his teacher Dr. Simons, and his brother Ralph. But that could wait. Business, he told them, was too pressing. He didn't add that the lure of wild country was too strong.

He made up his mind for Santa Fe. That was less risky than beaver trapping, even though the route lay through Indian country. He knew the business of supplying, and plenty of trappers were operating out of Santa Fe and Taos. He could get Peter, Austin, and J. J. Warner started in the world, give them a taste of the trail and the mountains, and still not be shot at by Blackfeet. At first he thought that he himself might not go along—he'd just handle the business end. But by the end of January, Jed had determined to hit the trail again. He wrote General Ashley for help in getting a passport.

In 1831, after 10 seasons tramping, trapping and trading across the West, Jedediah Smith thought he might settle back into civilization in St. Louis, Missouri. But the siren call of the trail—as well as the opportunity to establish new profitable trading partners in New Mexico—led the veteran mountain man to organize a wagon party to Santa Fe with three of his most trusted compadres of the beaver trade: Bill Sublette, David Jackson and Tom Fitzpatrick.

– "MURAL OF WESTERN TRAPPERS AND MOUNTAIN MEN" BY ALFRED JACOB MILLER, JACKSON LAKE LODGE, COURTESY GATES FRONTIERS FUND WYOMING COLLECTION WITHIN THE CAROL M. HIGHSMITH ARCHIVE, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

In 1826, Jedediah Smith was the first to lead a party of trappers to California from Salt Lake, south to the Colorado River, and then west across the Mojave Desert and San Bernardino Mountains. Returning under extreme conditions, he crossed the Sierra Nevada and the states of Nevada and Utah to Salt Lake.

– "TRAPPERS STARTING FOR THE BEAVER HUNT" BY ALFRED JACOB MILLER, TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

Jim "Old Gabe" Bridger was a peer and well-respected friend of Jedediah Smith. They both went west with William Ashley and Andrew Henry's Ashley-Henry Company in 1822 and spent many seasons together trapping beaver across the West. Both were masters of survival, trailblazing, mapmaking and trading. Bridger, Smith's junior by six years, would out-live Smith by 50 years, dying at 77 years old in Kansas City, Missouri, on July 17, 1881.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

He could explain it all to himself. He was making a good investment; he was going into a business he knew; he was g iving a hand to young men of enterprise. Besides that, he could go beyond Santa Fe and see the Southwest. That was the only part of the entire West he did not know firsthand; a trip there would let him complete his map. He didn't have to believe that he was giving in to the perverseness of his wicked heart, or to an uncivilized love of wild places.

Bill Sublette and David Jackson, meanwhile, had been waiting for Tom Fitzpatrick to arrive with confirmation of their deal to take supplies to rendezvous in the summer of 1831. But Fitzpatrick had not shown up. They had already arranged to buy the provisions and equipment. Stuck, they elected to go with Jed. Legally, the two parties would be separate, and Sublette-Jackson would get an independent passport and hire their men and sell their goods independently. But the outfits would travel together as far as Santa Fe. So, by late March of 1831, Jedediah Smith, who had tried to commit himself to the settlements by buying a farm, a fine house and two servants, was back in the mountain trade with his old partners.

Between 1822, when the Ashley men first went West (including Jedediah Smith), and 1843, when the first hordes of emigrants came, the trappers in a way became Indians themselves. They dressed like Indians, adopted some of the values of Indians, learned Indian languages, married (sometimes permanently) into Indian tribes, and came to believe in Indian religion.

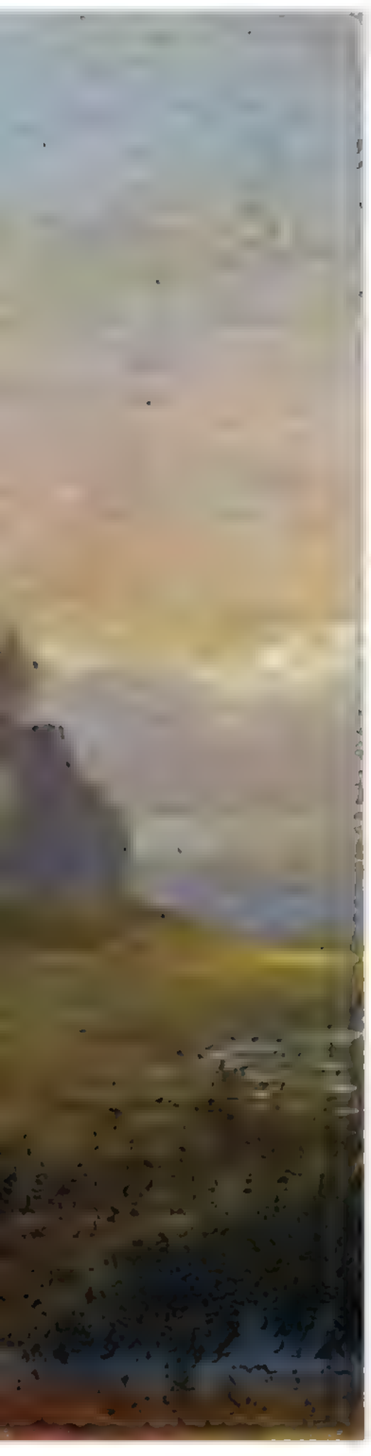
– "SCENE OF TRAPPERS AND INDIANS" BY ALFRED JACOB MILLER, TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

The Siren Call of the Trail West

They set out from St. Louis on April 10 with 22 wagons, including one bearing a six-pound cannon, and 74 men. Before they reached the frontier, two more independent wagons and nine more men joined them. Near Lexington, Missouri, they camped for final preparations. Jed took the precaution of making a new will, since he was heading back into Indian territory. But they still had several hundred miles of beautiful rolling plains before any possible danger.

Then they had a surprise in camp: Tom Fitzpatrick rode in. He was headed for St. Louis, two months late, to contract with Sublette and Jackson for supplies for the 1831 rendezvous.

The Irishman explained: Henry Fraeb and Jean Baptiste Gervais had gone to Snake country; Jim Bridger, Milton Sublette and he had moved back to the Three Forks area, again in strength, to cash in on Blackfoot country. They had made a good hunt; but during the winter they had heard nothing from their other two partners. Finally they decided to take a chance on buying a new outfit anyway. But Fitz hadn't gotten away until March to make the express to the settlements. What could be done about the outfit?



Jackson and Sublette were not carrying exactly what they would have taken to the mountains. They were supplying two towns as well as possibly some trappers. They decided that if Fitzpatrick would go along to Santa Fe, they would supply him there. Sublette and Jackson would let him have two-thirds of the outfit, and Smith the other third. The credit of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company was good with these old friends. But Fitzpatrick would have to get the goods to rendezvous on his own. And since it was already into the first week of May, he would be plenty late.

So they set out for Council Grove. They had no troubles that they weren't used to—drizzle for days at a time, miry ground and willful mules. At Council Grove they stocked up on wood for axles—the country was barren from here on—and got organized into disciplined units for traveling safely through Indian territory. Before long a war party made a charge on the wagons, but the cannon scared them off. A little later the clerk for Sublette and Jackson dropped behind the party to hunt and was killed by Pawnees. The Santa Fe Trail was not looking as trouble-free as it was supposed to be. This expedition, though, had an unsurpassed congregation of masters of the craft of the plains and the mountains. Jed Smith, Bill Sublette, David Jackson and

Jedediah Smith's Life in the West

Smith was born in Jericho, Tioga County, New York (present-day Bainbridge, Chenango County), January 6, 1799, and died along Sand Creek, off the Cimarron Cutoff of the Santa Fe Trail in Northern Mexico Territory on May 27, 1831. He was 32. His first season in the mountains as a fur trapper for William Ashley and Andrew Henry's Rocky Mountain Fur Company was in 1822.

1823: William Ashley, taking reinforcements to Andrew Henry, is defeated and driven downriver by the Arikaras. When the combined forces of the trappers and the United States Army fail to chastise the Arikaras for their attack, the Missouri River is closed to traders. Ashley sends Henry to the Yellowstone post by land, and another party, under Jedediah Smith, directly to Crow country.

1824: Smith leads the Ashley-Henry men across South Pass and begins the American exploration of the interior of the West. Henry retires. Ashley, guided by Tom Fitzpatrick, takes new forces to the mountains by the new Platte River route. Jim Bridger and Etienne Provost independently discover the Great Salt Lake at about the same time.

1825: Ashley holds the first rendezvous on Henry's Fork of the Green River. Jed Smith becomes Ashley's partner in the trade.

1826: At the second rendezvous (the first full-blown one), Ashley sells out to Smith, David Jackson and Bill Sublette; he becomes their banker and sales agent. Smith pioneers the land route to California, by way of south-central Utah, northwest Arizona and the Mojave Desert.

1827: Smith, leaving most of his men, crosses the Sierra Nevada and the states of Nevada and Utah on his way to rendezvous. The American Fur Company, headed by Astor, incorporates Missouri Fur and the Columbia Fur Company with a view to competing in the mountain trade. Smith, on his way back to California, has half his party massacred at the Mojave villages.

1828: Smith's brigade is massacred on the Umpqua River in modern Oregon, four men escaping. His competition, Hudson Bay Company, helps him to recover some of his property.

1829: Smith returns to rendezvous after a two-year absence and great losses. The firm makes an extensive and productive hunt. American Fur, getting into competition seriously, builds Fort Union.

1830: In 1830, Jedediah Smith, David Jackson and William Sublette, having made substantial profits, but becoming wary of the Trust [American Fur Company], sell out to Tom Fitzpatrick, Jim Bridger, Milton Sublette, Henry Fraeb and Jean Gervais. The new partners, trappers more than businessmen, call themselves the Rocky Mountain Fur Company. American Fur succeeds in opening trade with the Blackfeet.

1831: Jedediah Smith, venturing into the Santa Fe trade, is killed by Comanches on the Cimarron River. For the first time since 1825, there is no rendezvous: Neither Rocky Mountain Fur nor American Fur get their supply caravans to the mountains in time. The Trust steps up competition with RMF.

Tom Fitzpatrick were four of the half-dozen most skilled mountain men living.

The Cimarron Cutoff

They followed the Arkansas River southwest for over a hundred miles to come to the place where the route forked. The round-about way was easier and safer—along the river to the mountains and then due south, through Raton Pass, to Santa Fe. The short way was quick but treacherous. It was a straight line across the Cimarron Desert. It was a scorched country without water, without any landmark, crisscrossed by buffalo trails that disguised the wagon road and could lead a party the wrong way and into a torturous death by thirst. They took the Cimarron Cutoff. If anybody knew how to cross a desert and find water when he had to, it was Jed Smith.

In the confusing maze of buffalo trails, even these old hands lost their way. Soon they had spent three days without water. The animals were about to die. The men were delirious with thirst. Discipline was breaking down and small groups were wandering through the desert in a desperate search for water.

So Jed did what needed doing. Taking Fitzpatrick with him, he pushed ahead of the wagon train to try to find a water hole or a spring. He knew that the Cimarron meandered out there somewhere. Even if it was as sporadically wet as the Inconstant River, he would find a hole and dig for water.

The two men came to a hollow that should have had water. It was dry. Jed told Fitzpatrick to stay there, dig for water, and tell the main party in which direction he had gone. He was going to look further ahead. It was a dangerous choice in Indian country, because a lone man was an irresistible temptation. But Jed had to take the chance. He found the dry bed of the Cimarron 15 miles further on. It was dried to sand in most places, but here and there were holes filled with liquid. Jed's mind said caution: Buffalo holes would make good hunting spots for Indians and were likely to

In late May 1831, Jedediah Smith and his wagon party got lost among the waterless buffalo trails of the Cimarron Cutoff in southwestern Kansas. Desperate to save his wagon train, Smith went off alone in search of water along the Cimarron River and Sand Creek. He never returned. Today, a bronze marker on Kansas Highway 25 between Ulysses and Hugoton, Kansas, commemorates the approximate location of his fatal fight with Comanches.

– JOHN CHARLES FREMONT'S 1846 MAP OF HIS EXPEDITION TO NEW MEXICO AND THE SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAINS COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS –

be watched. But his body cried out for wet. He rode down, let his horse walk in, and waded in himself.

After his pain eased, he got back on his horse. He would be able to save the wagon train now. But when he turned, Jed saw a band of 15 or 20 Comanches blocking his way. He realized they had crept up while he was splashing in the water. He knew his chances were slim: The Comanches had a reputation for savagery.

His one hope was to make a strong front of it. He rode straight up to them and made signs of peace. They paid no attention. Since he had his gun cocked, the Indians fanned out to either side, away from the line of his rifle. Jed watched to make sure they didn't get behind him, and again tried to talk to their leader.

His horse was fidgeting backward. Suddenly the Indians began shouting at the horse and waving their blankets to frighten it. The horse wheeled and turned so that Jed's back was to the flank of braves. Instantly, one of them fired and hit him in the shoulder. Jed gasped, his breath knocked away. He turned the horse around to front, leveled his Hawken, and killed the chief.

He grabbed for his pistols. A lance knocked his arm away from a handle. Two more blows, like sledgehammers, crushed his chest. He felt a falling, back and sideways, like falling in a dream, falling without stopping. He forced his eyes to register: Blue, a vivid blue. He couldn't think what the blue might be. It darkened. And the sense of falling slipped away.

Trail's End

Jed Smith's brothers and friends waited and waited for him. Finally, for the safety of the caravan, they moved on. They hoped that he would miraculously survive whatever had happened, as he had always survived, and catch up with them on the trail. When they got to Santa Fe on July 4, they heard the story of his death. Mexican traders had gotten it from the Comanches. Peter and Austin bought Jed's rifle and pistols from the traders. Jed's body was never found.

Jed Smith had made his traditional Christianity a deep principle within himself. But the love of wild places had rooted into him and become a deeper religion. His place of meditation was not the oak pew but the lone wilderness, as his eulogist said. His altar was the mountaintop, in a sense truer than his eulogist me ant. His sacraments were mountain skills. At the age of 32, he had lost his life in the service of his true church.

He had made a great pilgrimage to discover and know intimately the West he loved. For that mission he had risked, in his own eyes, even his salvation.

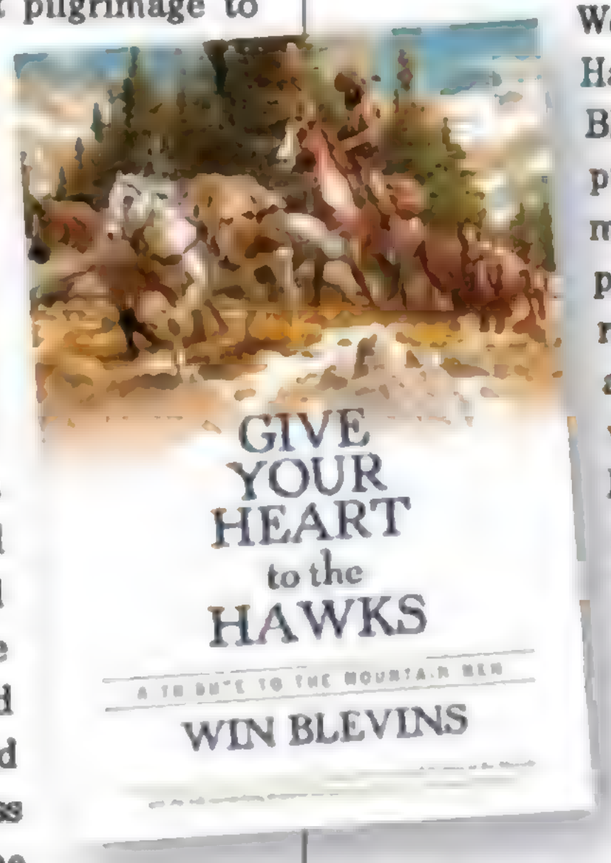
Though he died young, his quest had been successful. He had found the way across the Rocky Mountains at South Pass. He had led his men the length and width of the Great Basin. He had pioneered the overland route to California. He had become the first man to cross the Sierra Nevada. And he had been first to travel by land from California to Oregon. If the trappers were light years ahead of the American government and American people in their knowledge of the West, it was because Jed Smith had shown them the way. As an explorer of the West, he had come to rank with Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. Such were the accomplishments of the public man.

The private man had met his own standards in enterprise, courage, integrity and fairness. He had challenged the dangerous and the unknown with a fierce energy, and had thrived in them. He had spent his days living and feeling in the particulars—the creeks and meadows, the ridges and peaks—of the country he loved most, the Rocky Mountains.

A decade or two later, newspapers publicized the trapper garishly. Dime novelists idealized mountain men into heroes for wide-eyed boys and dreaming fathers. Kit Carson and Jim Bridger became epic figures, American versions of Odysseus. But then, when he should most have been remembered, Jedediah Strong Smith was forgotten.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

"Death of a Mountain Man: Jedediah Smith's Last Trail" is excerpted from *Give Your Heart to the Hawks: A Tribute to the Mountain Men* (TorForge) by Western Writers of America Hall of Fame member Win Blevins. Originally published in 1973, Blevins' masterpiece has been in print for nearly 50 years, a remarkable accomplishment for any work of history. As Blevins notes in the 40th anniversary introduction, "The men in these stories lived vigorously, daringly, adventurously. I hope readers will ride along with them for decades to come. It is good for the soul." Amen.



In addition to *Give Your Heart to the Hawks*, **Win Blevins** is the author of over 35 books, including the Spur Award-winning *Stone Song*, a novel about Crazy Horse. He is proud to call himself a member of the world's oldest profession—storyteller.

BY SAMUEL K. DOLAN

Another Bad Man Gone to Hell

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A BORDER BANDIT

ON the night of August 14, 1891, Toribio Pastrano, a 35-year-old Presidio County deputy sheriff strode into a Mexican *fandango* in search of an elusive outlaw named Antonio Carrasco. Pastrano reportedly had evidence that linked Carrasco with the murder of Texas Ranger Charles Fusselman in El Paso County the year before. Though other Texas lawmen had already attributed Fusselman's slaying to a gang of cutthroats who operated out of the swampy thickets along the Rio Grande near El Paso, Pastrano was determined to bring in Carrasco, all the same.

According to the *Austin Weekly Statesman*, as Pastrano made his way through the couples who waltzed to the "tinkling of guitars," he spotted his quarry at the far end of the room. If newspaper reports are to be believed, Carrasco would have been a hard man to miss in any crowd. "He was dressed from head to foot in snow white duck and around his waist was a broad red sash, from which protruded the handle of a revolver," the *Statesman* reported.

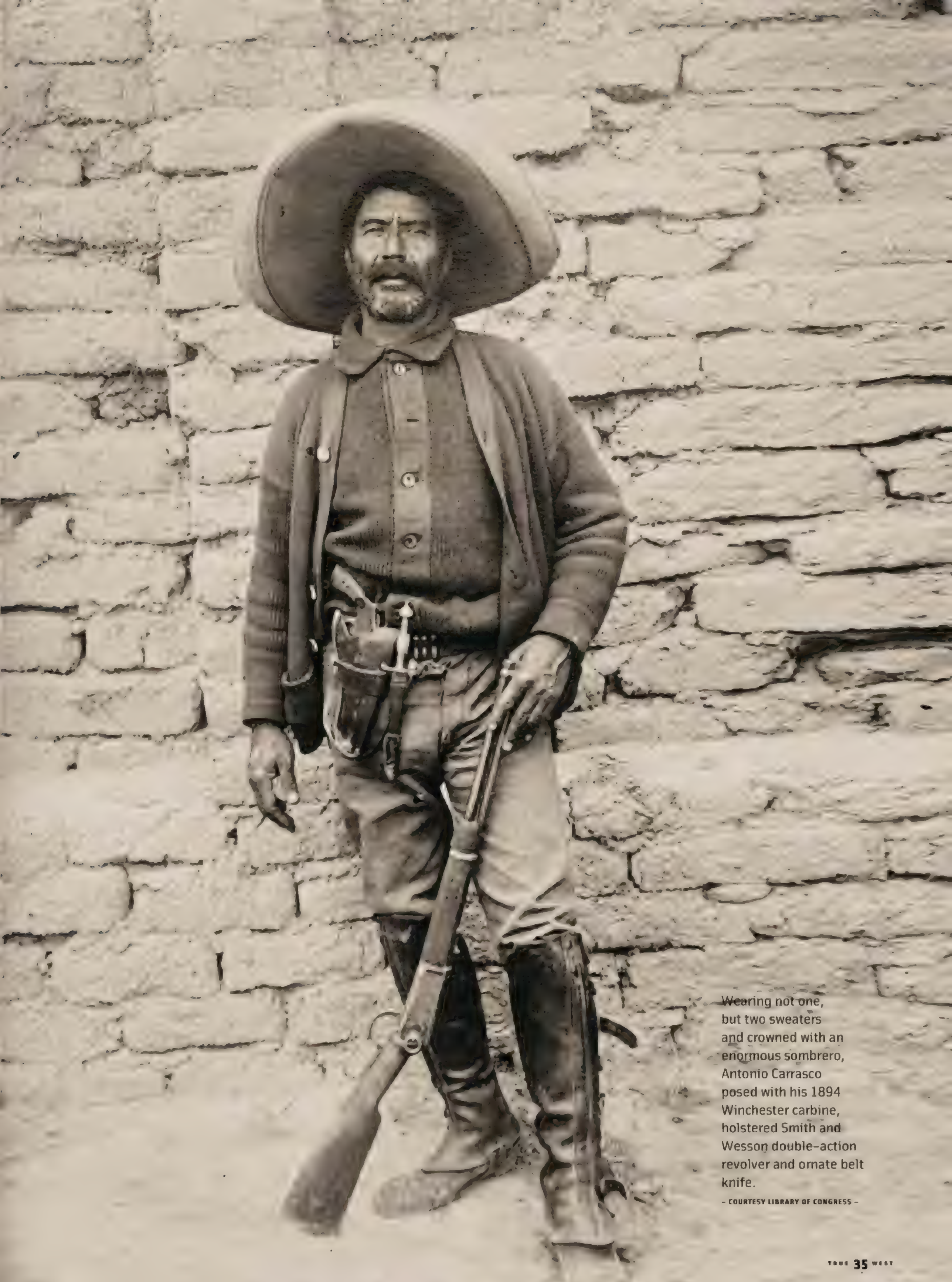
As a man who lived most of his life on the dodge, Carrasco knew a lawman when he saw one and he eyed Pastrano carefully as the officer approached. He called out to him, "My friend, you are an officer, and wish to arrest me. Very well." Then, before Pastrano even had a chance to respond, Carrasco whipped out his six-shooter and shot the lawman through the head, just above the right eye, killing him instantly. "Backing out of the room Carrasco, with leveled revolver, defied any man to arrest him, and springing upon his horse plunged into the river," the *Statesman* reported. "He reached the opposite bank and disappeared."

Though seldom mentioned in the histories of borderlands outlaws written by American authors, Antonio Carrasco's life story reads like the fantasy of a Hollywood filmmaker, a blend of myth and deadly reality worthy of one of the *corridos*, or folk songs, that became so popular during the Mexican Revolution. As it is, separating fact from fiction in the story of Carrasco is no easy task and very little is known of his early life.

> "Antonio Carrasco's life story reads like the fantasy of a Hollywood filmmaker, a blend of myth and deadly reality."

One of three brothers who would make names for themselves as West Texas outlaws, Carrasco came from a large family and was the son of Jose Faustino Carrasco Mercado and his wife Maria Tiburcia Cayetana Torres Baeza. According to legend, Carrasco's father was killed by the Rurales, President Porfirio Diaz's fearsome gray-jacketed enforcers. In 1891, a Confederate veteran named Frank Benairs claimed that while traveling south towards Central America after the Civil War, he and his servant heard stories of a teen-aged Carrasco, who was already making a name for himself. Benairs later told friends in San Antonio that *both* of Carrasco's parents had been murdered by soldiers and a sister had been carried away. In Benairs' account, Carrasco appealed to the authorities for help in capturing the officer responsible but had been turned away. Carrasco had finally taken matters into his own hands. "Within the first year his enemy's father and mother were taken to the mountains," Benairs recalled, "tortured and their heads placed on stakes in the highway; his young sister was mur-dered and her body thrown into the street with a dagger pinning a letter to her breast; finally the suspected officer himself was cap-tured, taken to the mountains, tortured into confession, and then slowly into death."

Though Benairs' story seems highly suspect, the legend of Antonio Carrasco is similar to that of other bandits, including Joaquin Murrieta in California and Carrasco's more famous contemporary Pancho Villa, whose own life as an outlaw allegedly began at the age of 16 when he shot a man who tried to take his sister as a concubine. All legends aside, Carrasco, "that prince of devils," in the words of the *Detroit Free Press*, did in fact ride at the head of a band of outlaws, one of several that prowled a section of the Rio Grande Valley of West Texas known as "The Bloody Peninsula," a deadly 60-mile stretch of lower Presidio County. Throughout his criminal career, Carrasco stole horses,



Wearing not one, but two sweaters and crowned with an enormous sombrero, Antonio Carrasco posed with his 1894 Winchester carbine, holstered Smith and Wesson double-action revolver and ornate belt knife.

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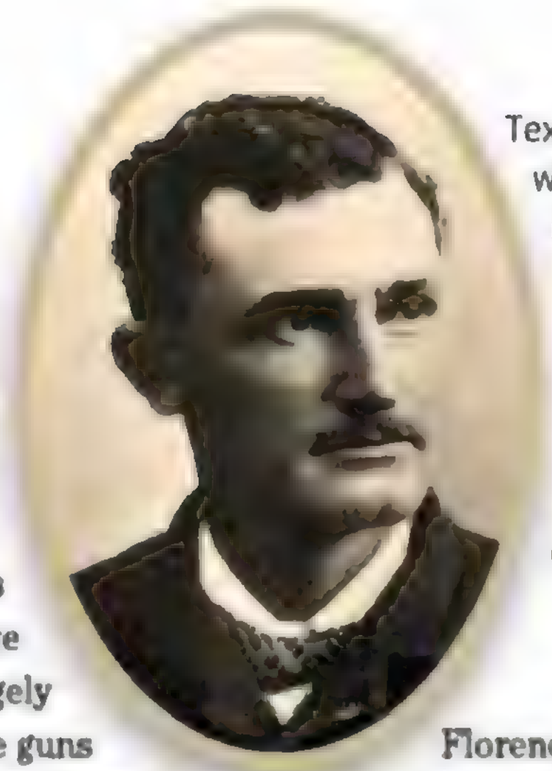

Texas Ranger John R. Hughes, who would eventually take command of Company D of the Frontier Battalion, participated in the deaths of two of Antonio Carrasco's brothers.

– COURTESY WESTERN HISTORY COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA LIBRARIES, ROSE COLLECTION, IMAGE #1441–

extorted ranchers, broke into houses and, according to the *Statesman*, by the time he killed Pastrano, had killed eight other men in shootouts.

Today, Carrasco's brothers Matilde and Florencio are somewhat better known, largely because they died facing the guns of some of the most legendary Rangers in Texas. On the night of January 12, 1892, Texas Rangers John R. Hughes and Alonzo "Lon" Oden set out to arrest Matilde Carrasco and two companions for stealing ore from the mines at Shafter, Texas. With help from a former Ranger-turned-informant named Ernest "Diamond Dick" St. Leon, Hughes and Oden prepared an ambush, and when the outlaws refused to surrender, they cut down Matilde Carrasco's associates with shotgun blasts. Before he could escape, St. Leon brought Carrasco down with a fatal shot to the head.

That June, Hughes, Oden and another Ranger were on the hunt for a well-known fugitive when they had a chance run-in with Florencio Carrasco and two other bandits. In the shootout that followed, Florencio Carrasco was killed.

Somehow, either because he was too elusive or too lucky, Antonio Carrasco managed to avoid the bloody fate of his brothers. In 1895, a man named Antonio Carrasco was arrested for horse theft and received a five-year prison sentence, though it's unclear if this is the same man who killed Toribio Pastrano. In any case, he was never called to answer for the murder of the Presidio County lawman, and in the summer of 1898, this Carrasco escaped from custody while serving as a prison trusty.

Then, in the spring of 1900, the *El Paso Herald* reported that Antonio Carrasco had been arrested by Mexican authorities in Juarez. According to the *Herald*, Carrasco had spent time in a prison in the state of Chihuahua in the years that followed the death of Pastrano. Following his release, he had gone to Juarez where he'd gotten into some trouble and landed in the local jail where he was recognized. It was reported that the sheriff of Presidio County would seek Carrasco's extradition back to Texas, though that effort ultimately failed.

Finally, as Revolution exploded across Mexico in late 1910 and early 1911, Antonio Carrasco apparently saw an opportunity to step out of the shadows. Carrasco reportedly appealed to Col. Jose de la Cruz Sanchez to allow him to join the rebel army, fighting on behalf of Francisco Madero. "You have fought the dictator Diaz for a few weeks," Carrasco told Sanchez. "I have fought him for many years. I want to help Madero to win and get a pardon so that I may quit this life of a humbled coyote."

Because of Carrasco's record and his reputation, Sanchez initially refused to allow the bandit to join the fight. Carrasco went ahead and raised his own company anyway

Having reinvented himself as a soldier fighting for land and liberty during the early months of the Mexican Revolution, Antonio Carrasco (center) carried a Luger automatic pistol.

– COURTESY OF THE EL PASO PUBLIC LIBRARY, BORDER HERITAGE CENTER –

Charles Fusselman, who served as both a First Sergeant in the Texas Rangers and as a deputy U.S. marshal, was killed in an 1890 shootout near El Paso. According to press reports, Deputy Sheriff Toribio Pastrano connected Antonio Carrasco with Fusselman's slaying.

– TEXAS RANGER HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM, WACO, TEXAS –

and, according to an account later published in the *Buffalo Sunday Morning News*, "proceeded to wage a little private war." It was at some point during this stage of his life that Carrasco posed for an iconic photograph. Standing before an adobe wall, Carrasco wore an impossibly large sombrero and not one, but two sweaters. He held a Model 1894 Winchester carbine, and around his waist is a cartridge belt, a holstered Smith and Wesson and a distinctive knife with an ornate ivory handle. Carrasco's face carried a salt-and-pepper beard and deep creases along his forehead and around a pair of eyes that seem to look past the camera with a gaze that suggested they'd seen many battles. Eventually, Sanchez had a change of heart and in early part of 1911 he allowed Carrasco and his band of 100 men to formally join the revolutionary army.

In late February of 1911, the *Herald* reported that Carrasco, acting "under superior orders," led a raid on the small village of San Antonio across the Rio Grande from Candelaria, Texas. The following month, Carrasco and his men participated in the battle against President Diaz's troops at Ojinaga. This fighting would unfold within view of the town of Presidio, Texas, where US troops and American civilians would be provided with a front row seat to the unfolding Mexican drama. According to the *Boston Globe*, one American woman hosted a "battle tea" on the roof of her house so that her guests could enjoy refreshments while watching the battle.

Carrasco's recent reinforcement of Sanchez's army was widely reported in American newspapers, though it seems that Carrasco had quickly grown tired of "fighting without the reward of loot" and failed to follow orders when assigned the critical mission to cut off enemy lines of communication. He was also later accused of having sent letters to General Gonzalo Luque, commander of the federal garrison at Ojinaga, that provided the enemy officer with important intelligence on the rebel army's battle plans. In addition to Carrasco's alleged duplicity, the *Buffalo Sunday Morning News* later reported that he and his men also engaged in violent criminal behavior while serving with Sanchez's forces. "With a band of 35 kindred spirits he deserted his post and made a raid through the country, looting several ranches and ending at the little town of San Antonio, where a mescal distillery was located," the *Sunday Morning News* declared. "Here he indulged himself in a protracted carouse and wantonly killed an old man who was unarmed and helpless." On April 4, 1911, Carrasco was court-martialed for treason and sentenced to death.

When Carrasco learned that he would be meet his own fate the next morning, the old bandit was reportedly disappointed. "Why not tonight?" Carrasco asked. "I might not sleep well." According to an account published in 1913, many of Carrasco's fellow insurrectos were uneasy about executing the well-known bandit and feared retribution by Carrasco's many friends and relatives. Lots were finally drawn to decide who would serve on the firing squad and the executioners were placed under the command of Frank "El Diablo" McCombs, an American soldier of fortune and, according to the *Sunday Morning Times*, "a man of much experience in military killing."

On April 5, 1911, Carrasco was marched up a dry arroyo several hundred yards from the insurgent camp. "This spot will do as well as any," Carrasco told his executioners and then asked permission to smoke a cigarette as McCombs formed his men into a line. "There is one request I want to make," Carrasco told the firing squad. "Please shoot at my heart. I don't want my face all torn up." A few moments later, Carrasco sensed the uneasiness in one of the men about to kill him and sneered angrily. "What are you trembling for?" Carrasco asked him. "I'm the fellow that's going to die. If I had a chance to kill all of you, I'd be glad. I wouldn't shake."

With the cigarette still dangling from his lips, Carrasco opened his coat and ordered, "Aim here at my heart. Are you all ready? Then—fire." Three of the six executioners then opened fire with their Winchesters and Mausers. Struck in the chest, Carrasco tumbled back onto the ground, his cigarette falling onto the front of his shirt. McCombs coolly stepped over to the dead bandit and flicked the burning stub away with his hand. "Another bad man gone to hell," McCombs said, then turned and walked back to camp.

Colonel Jose de la Cruz Sanchez (seated third from the left) was reportedly uneasy about allowing Antonio Carrasco to fight on behalf of the Maderistas during the early phase of the Mexican Revolution. He eventually relented, though in time Sanchez's concerns would prove valid.

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Samuel K. Dolan is the author of *Cowboys and Gangsters: Stories of an Untamed Southwest.*

BY JEFF ORENS

SIX-GUNS & SLUGGERS

HOW 150 YEARS AGO BASEBALL'S CINCINNATI RED STOCKINGS INVADED THE WEST BY RAIL AND SEEDED THE NATIONAL PASTIME ACROSS THE WESTERN FRONTIER

Two sesquicentennial anniversaries in 2019 will commemorate landmark events in the history of the American West. When gold and silver spikes were gently tapped into place in a ceremonial laurelwood rail tie at Promontory Summit in Utah Territory to symbolize the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad on May 10, 1869, it opened the West as never before. Earlier in the year, the Red Stockings of Cincinnati became the first all-salaried, professional team in the fledgling sport of baseball. Undefeated as the year progressed, the Red Stockings rode these rails in mid-September to introduce professional ball beyond the Mississippi. The West offered opportunity and adventure, attracting people from around the world who flocked to the California gold rush of '49 and the Comstock silver lode in '59. Now, in 1869, these professionals came west to demonstrate their wealth of baseball riches to overmatched but eager ball clubs with a hankering to be part of the Red Stockings' historic season.

There was never a team like the 1869 Cincinnati Red Stockings. They attracted an array of astonishing baseball talent that registered the only undefeated season in professional baseball history. Their centerfielder/manager, Harry Wright was an astute baseball mind, inventing now well-accepted teamwork techniques, such as players calling for fly balls and backing each other up in the field, using substitute pitchers to "relieve" starting hurlers and repeatedly practicing the sport to achieve perfection. His brother, "Smiling George," had a 1,000-watt grin of pearly whites that matched the star power of his game. He was the first real superstar of the sport, a shortstop with tremendous range and fearsome hitting prowess. Bushy side-whiskered Asa Brainard was their unmatched pitcher, throwing an array of

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HARRY WRIGHT

The completion of the Transcontinental Railroad on May 10, 1869, opened the West to broader commercial development, geologic surveys—including John Wesley Powell's first expedition down the Green and Colorado rivers, tourism and recreation—including the historic 1869 Western barnstorming tour of the Cincinnati Red Stockings.

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

speedballs and spinners that baffled hitters. His nickname, "Ace," became synonymous with any team's star pitcher. With a solid cast of support, the Red Stockings were unbeatable as they took on the powers of organized baseball in the East. The game was very different than the version played today. Pitchers threw the ball underhand and there wasn't a glove to be found, leading to black-and-blue hands or sometimes broken fingers. But the sport captivated much of the country.

Baseball's First Western Team

As Easterners joined the masses flooding into San Francisco to find gold in 1849, a few brought an enthusiasm for "New York" baseball as outlined in the Knickerbocker Rules of 1845. In early 1851, the local newspapers were reporting on baseball games being played on the Plaza in San Francisco, many of the participants thought to be transplants of the New York Knickerbocker Base Ball Club. In 1859, the first organized team on the Pacific Coast, the San Francisco Eagles, was established. The next February, in San Francisco they played to a 33-33 tie with the Red Rovers of Sacramento. In September, the Eagles traveled to Sacramento in a rematch for the state title, emerging victorious 31-17. In a few years, the Eagles organization had grown such that with the overflow they formed a new club, the Pacifics. Both became premier teams among more than a dozen that organized in the Bay Area. The sport was invigorating to watch and spectators might even shoot their six-guns when excited. With gamblers betting on their favorite team, it's said it was not uncommon to have enthusiastic supporters fire into the air to shake the concentration of batters taking swings or to rattle fielders preparing to catch the ball.

Taking the Train West

The completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in May 1869 was a game-changing moment in the history of the West. The 1,900-mile journey from Omaha, Nebraska, to Sacramento, California, which previously had taken five months by wagon train, now took five days. Granted, each mile on the train was a bone-jarring experience as it clattered over the rails, especially at top speeds of 60 miles per hour. Expanded markets and cheaper channels to distribute products were major economic benefits of

The legendary Cincinnati Red Stockings were undefeated during the season with a record, including exhibitions, of 68 wins, one tie, and no losses. Right fielder Cal McVey stands in the back, far left, with his hand on the bat. Pitcher Asa Brainard is seated second from right.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

the rail line. The Red Stockings saw their marketing possibilities immediately and scheduled a trip west to showcase their talents to a paying audience.

Up until that point, to the Red Stockings "going west" meant traveling to play teams in Chicago. Beyond the Mississippi River was something they had only read about in headlines touting gold strikes or battles with Indians. In mid-September they began their westward adventure. Out the windows of their Pullman railcars they saw the expansive Western prairies and majestic mountains. Buffalo and antelope were both new to them, at once unusual and inviting for target practice. A number of the ballplayers had brought sidearms, which they employed in shooting at the animals, who were fortunate that the players' accuracy was better suited for throwing baseballs at targets than hitting them with gunfire. Many years later, George Wright would tell of sleeping on the train with a six-shooter under his pillow, ready for a surprise Indian attack. Of course, they arrived in Sacramento with scalps intact. They took a paddle steamboat into San Francisco and were received warmly on September 23 by an official welcoming committee as well as several thousand curious onlookers.

Three local San Francisco amateur clubs—the Eagles, the Pacifics and the Atlantics—had been chosen to represent the city in the upcoming games. All contests were to be played at Recreation Field, a venue for entertainment of all sorts, from circuses to bicycle races. The newspapers proudly noted that special seating was available for one thousand people in the Pavilion at one dollar per person and reserved for ladies and their escorts. First up were the state champion Eagles, the pride of San Francisco and in the midst of their own undefeated season, though only five games long. Cincinnati won convincingly, 35-4. Two days later, the Eagles once again succumbed, this time by an even larger margin of 58-4. Things did not improve when the Pacifics took the field, losing twice to

GEORGE WRIGHT

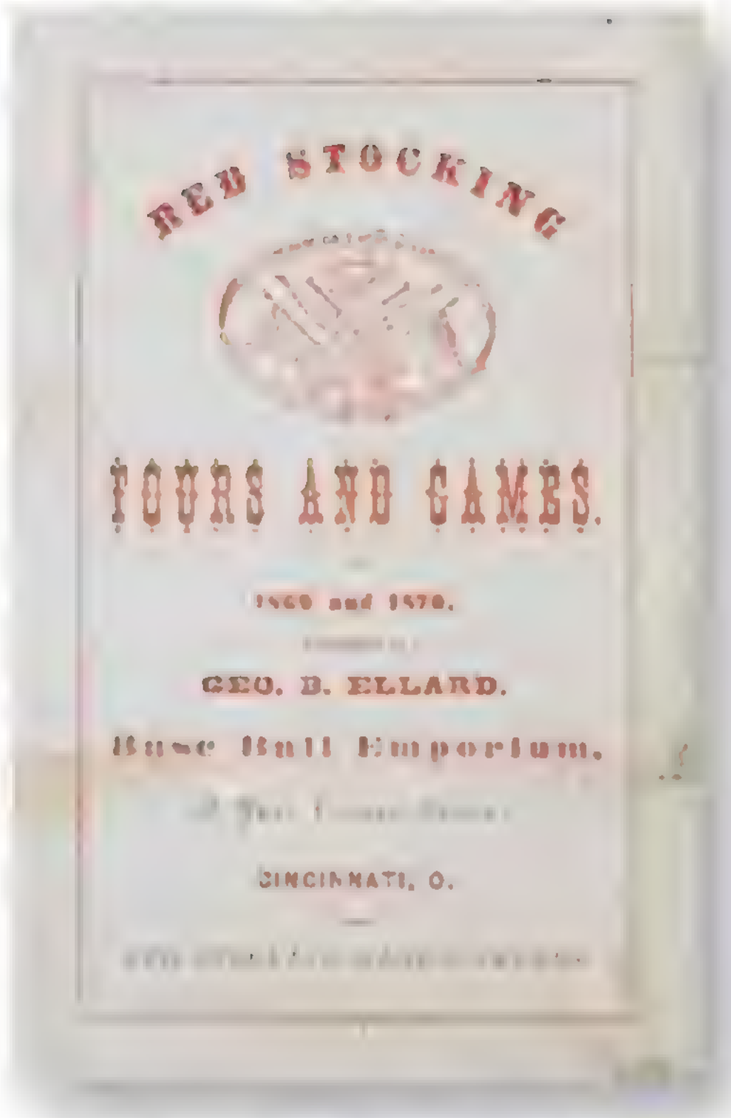
– COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS –

Built in 1868, Recreation Grounds ballfield in San Francisco, circa 1875, hosted other entertainments in addition to baseball, including circuses, bike races and cricket matches.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

the Red Stockings by 66-4 and 54-5. Finally, the Atlantics were being thrashed so completely at 76-5 after five innings that everyone agreed to mercifully end the game. A final contest was played between a "picked nine" of the best of the three Bay Area teams and Cincinnati, but they faired only slightly better, getting shellacked 46-14.

What was plain to see, besides the sheer muscularity of the visitors that caused one San Francisco newspaper to note the players' "well-formed calves" that bulged in their bright red hosiery, was that the Red Stockings played a different brand of baseball from the locals. They performed with precise teamwork, backing each other up in case of error. Their pitcher got momentum for his underhand deliveries by taking a step toward home plate, in contrast to the locals who remained stationary, both feet firmly planted, as they delivered the ball. The Bay Area bombers swung for the fences, resulting in lofting "sky balls" to the outfielders; when hitting a grounder they would eye its path and run toward first base almost as an afterthought, usually being thrown out in the process. Even though decimated on the field, the home teams enjoyed the opportunity to play alongside the storied Cincinnati ballclub as it displayed professional baseball to the West. The Red Stockings left for home shortly thereafter, flush with cash from their



The Cincinnati Red Stockings of the National Association of Base Ball Players is recognized as the first fully salaried professional baseball team.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

share of admissions fees. They played a quick game in Sacramento against another picked nine, which they handily won 50-6. Then they left the West, only stopping when they reached Omaha to wallop two more local teams by the scores of 65-1 and 56-3. At season's end, including exhibitions, they had registered 68 wins and one tie.

Two mining towns in Nevada had high hopes that the Red Stockings would stop there for ballgames, but it didn't happen. To reach Virginia City or Carson City, each about thirty miles south of the nearest rail stop in Reno, would entail a long, uncomfortable wagon ride for the Easterners, quashing any hopes of a visit. Both towns were disappointed, but they continued to play ball. The allure of instant wealth appealed to miners as inherent risk-takers, but, as noted by a scholar's study of the times "mining itself was generally tiresome, monotonous, and frustratingly unsuccessful." Baseball was a welcome distraction, usually accompanied by beer for parched throats and gambling on the outcome, an appealing trifecta for the miners.

Nineteen-year-old Cal McVey had been part of the Red Stockings trip west in 1869. A strong Iowa farm boy, Cal was a prodigious hitter and the team's right fielder. When the Red Stockings disbanded at the end of 1870, he followed Harry Wright and two other

In the years following the Red Stockings' barnstorming trip back and forth across the West in 1869, baseball teams were organized in big cities and small towns alike, including the Berthoud, Colorado, town ball club, circa 1880.

– COURTESY OF JAY SANFORD –

After one more year playing for the Cincinnati ball club, McVey went east with Charlie Gould and brothers Harry and George Wright, where they became members of the first Boston Red Stockings team, today's National League Atlanta Braves.

– COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS –

teammates to form another club in Boston. They wore their red hosiery and called themselves the Boston Red Stockings, becoming the next great professional ballclub. In 1878, Cal returned to Cincinnati as a player/manager and brought his team to San Francisco for exhibitions at the end of the 1879 season, a decade after his initial visit. This time he stayed.

Cal became a baseball version of Johnny Appleseed in California, founding or playing on teams wherever his work took him. Seymour R. Church's early baseball history *Base Ball Vol. I, 1845-1871* (1902) contains an interview with McVey in which he states he captained Oakland's Bay City team in 1880, moved to Hanford in central California and formed a ballclub which was a consistent winner from 1882-85, then went further south to San Diego in 1887 and organized another successful team before returning to San Francisco. Church thought so highly of McVey as a baseball pioneer that he dedicated his book to him.

By the mid-1880s, like the tumbleweed, amateur and semi-pro baseball teams blanketed much of the West. In 1888, the *San Francisco Examiner* published a poem that was to launch baseball into mainstream American consciousness. It was called *Casey at the Bat*. By chance, the story of the Mudville Nine was recited that summer on Broadway and it brought down the house, becoming an instant classic. Vigorous debate ensued over who Casey was based on and where Mudville was located. The magic of the piece was that many teams had a Casey, and most could be from Mudville, from mining communities in Nevada to the coalfields of West Virginia, train stops in Nebraska to steel towns in Pennsylvania. Baseball had truly spanned America, linked by steel rails and an addictive passion for the sport, spurred on in the West by the Red Stockings' visit 150 years ago.

Jeff Orens is a retired business executive with a passion for history. He writes on a broad range of topics, including sports, business and politics. Western tales on these subjects are special favorites.

Halfway through the 1869 season, the professional Cincinnati Red Stockings returned home from a series of games on the East Coast. In honor of their sweep of their eastern opponents and the team's undefeated record, the Cincinnati Lumber Company presented the Red Stockings with a custom 27-foot long bat.

– "HARPER'S WEEKLY," JULY 24, 1869, COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS –

CARSON CITY MINTS A BALL CLUB

In 1869, Abraham "Abe" Curry, Carson City's founding father, was the first superintendent of the Carson Mint. That summer, two young employees, one his nephew Z. S. Eldredge, had come to town from Washington, D.C., awaiting the mint's opening in early 1870. To pass the time they introduced baseball to the locals, played on a patch of land called the Plaza donated by Curry as the future site of the state capitol building, constructed the following year. Eldredge organized the first Carson City ballclub, the Silver Stars. Virginia City already had a team and they decided to play each other in a best-of-three series for the "state championship." The Silver Stars easily took the first game, played on the Plaza, 81-31. The next match was in Virginia City, but the result was no different; the Silver Stars won 54-18. Carson City had won the championship with strong support from Curry, who had become an avid baseball fan.

In a recent conversation, Nevada State Museum historian Bob Nylen noted, "Baseball had grabbed the attention of Carson City and Virginia City. Abe Curry promoted it as a part of Carson City pride." On a subsequent losing tour for the Silver Stars in California, frustrated with their performance, Curry ribbed them, telegraphing to "play one game with the boys of the Blind Asylum and then come home." There was no doubt, baseball fever had taken hold. The Virginia City newspaper *Territorial Enterprise* commented at the time, "It is quite certain that baseball is all the rage just now… Sandlotters make it very warm for the windows in the vicinity."

En route back to Cincinnati, the Red Stockings passed on the rugged stage ride to Carson City to play the local Silver Stars baseball club.

– ALFRED HART, COURTESY STANFORD LIBRARY –

TRUE WEST EXCLUSIVE

CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

KIT CARSON'S HORSEBACK DUEL

KIT CARSON VS THE "GREAT BULLY OF THE MOUNTAINS"

Kit Carson and Joseph Chouinard square off on horseback.

– ILLUSTRATION BY BOB BOZE BELL –

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Based on the research of Marc Simmons

AUGUST 1835

The large French-Canadian trapper Joseph Chouinard is roaring drunk and on a day-long rampage at the annual trapper's rendezvous on the upper Green River in Wyoming.

Chouinard, also known as the "Great Bully of the Mountains," is abusing anyone and everyone he runs into in the sprawling camp. He picks fights and beats up two or three of his fellow Frenchmen.

Late in the afternoon, the bully turns his attention to the Americans, blaring that he will "take a switch and switch them" for being "mewling school boys."

Finally, a short, wiry trapper steps forward, proudly proclaiming he is an American and unafraid of the Frenchman. The bantam rooster-like mountain man warns the Frenchman to stop such talk or he "will rip his guts."

Chouinard turns on his heels and hurries to his lodge to retrieve his rifle and his horse. Kit Carson, the challenger, does the same.

Word spreads of the impending storm. Trappers and Indians hurry to watch the battle about to unfold inside the open circle in front of the tents.

Carson has armed himself with a horse pistol, possibly a single-shot dragoon. In the heat of the moment, he rides forward without a saddle.

The two horsemen approach from opposite directions. When they gallop toward each other, they rein in so close, their horses' heads touch.

Carson demands to know if he is the man the Frenchman intends to shoot.

"No," Chouinard replies, but in the same instant, he swings up his rifle to fire a shot.

Carson raises his heavy pistol and shoots a half-second before the Frenchman can pull the trigger.

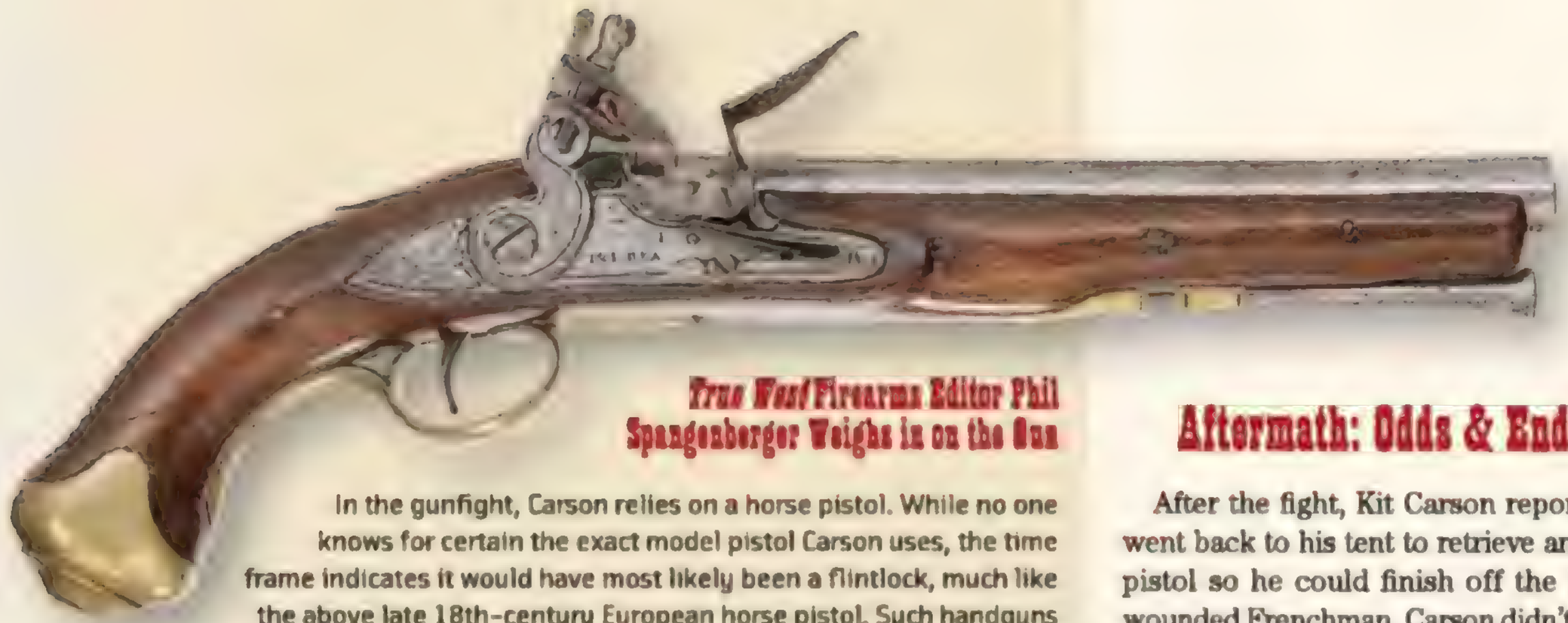
Carson's shot strikes Chouinard in the right hand, shattering it and tearing off his thumb. The ball comes out the wrist and passes through the arm above the elbow. Carson's shot causes the Frenchman's rifle to jerk upward; instead of hitting Carson in the heart, the bullet creases the trapper's neck, under his right ear. The spent powder burns Carson's eye and singes his hair.

Chouinard falls to the ground, and the duel ends.

***Green River Rendezvous* by William Henry Jackson**

Kit Carson attends the annual trapper's rendezvous with his old friend Jim Bridger. His crew has just finished a season of beaver hunting near the headwaters of the Missouri River. The river's floodplain is well grassed with stands of cottonwood and willow, and the air is quite cool for summer. The 1835 rendezvous attracts a couple hundred white traders and trappers, while at least 2,000 Indians have pitched their tipis for miles up and down the river.

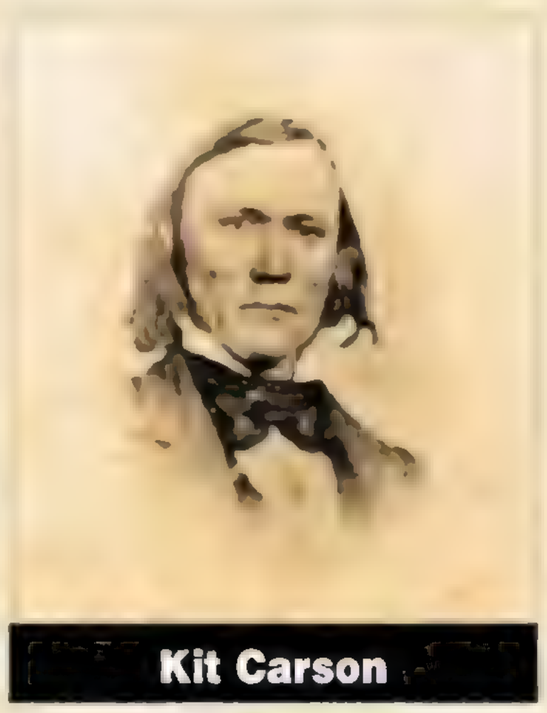
– ALL IMAGES TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –



True West Firearms Editor Phil Spangenberger Weighs in on the Gun

In the gunfight, Carson relies on a horse pistol. While no one knows for certain the exact model pistol Carson uses, the time frame indicates it would have most likely been a flintlock, much like the above late 18th-century European horse pistol. Such handguns were commonly found in early America and easily put to use on the frontier years after their first appearance.

This 1862 photo has been erroneously mislabeled in the past as showing Kit Carson with John C. Frémont in 1849. Carson, 13 years older, stands next to Edwin O. Perrin, who was sent to New Mexico in 1861 by the Secretary of War Simon Cameron to help arm New Mexican troops for conflict in the Southwest.



Kit Carson

Explorer John C. Frémont's reports praised the young scout and led to Kit Carson's celebrity back East, where he found stardom in dime novels.

Aftermath: Odds & Ends

After the fight, Kit Carson reportedly went back to his tent to retrieve another pistol so he could finish off the badly wounded Frenchman. Carson didn't clear up whether or not this happened, adding only a single sentence about the duel, "During our stay in camp we had no more bother with this bully Frenchman."

This sounds like the bully survived. "Historians and writers remain about evenly divided over whether he did or did not kill Joseph Chouinard," writes Marc Simmons in *Kit Carson & His Three Wives*.

After witnessing the collapse of the fur trade, Carson had a chance encounter with explorer John C. Frémont, in 1842, that allowed him to act as a guide and fighter before he joined the fight in the 1846-48 Mexican-American War. In 1849, he moved to Taos, New Mexico; five years later, he became an Ute Indian agent.

By 1861, he was back in battle, in this case, fighting for the Union in the Civil War. Carson joined the 1st New Mexico Volunteer Infantry where he served as its colonel. After clashing with Confederates at the 1862 Battle of Valverde, he defeated the Navajos and rounded them up for a forced march to the Fort Sumner reservation.

A year after being named a brigadier general in 1865, Carson moved to Colorado to serve as commander at Fort Garland. While there, he negotiated a peace treaty with the Utes.

Carson left the Army in 1867 because of declining health. He died at Fort Lyon on May 23, 1868. His final words were, "Doctor, compadre, adios!"

Recommended: *Kit Carson & His Three Wives: A Family History* by Marc Simmons, published by University of New Mexico Press

BY MICHAEL ENGELHARD

LITTLE-KNOWN CHARACTERS OF THE OLD WEST

Last of a Breed

Jesse Jefferson "Bear" Howard's legendary life bridged two centuries.

With his grizzled beard, 6-foot-4-inch frame, and paws "hard as Malpais boulders," Jesse Jefferson "Bear" Howard resembled the animals he trapped well into his 80s. This larger-than-life character became part of Arizona folklore long before his death at age 93.

Born in Illinois in 1817, Howard supplied game to mining camps of the forty-niners after fighting under Sam Houston in the Mexican-American War, during which he was wounded. He carried that bullet in his shoulder for 54 years. "It rattles around my back," he once complained, "whenever my horse gets out of a walk." Having mortally shot a Mexican sheepherder during a dispute over pastureland in 1879, this horse breeder fled northern California. To his credit, Howard, who only meant to scare the Mexican, had turned himself in. The jail keeper, an acquaintance of his, left the cell unlocked and provided a horse for his escape. According to a different version of the story, Howard's daughter baked a file into a "birthday cake" for her father. Indians had abducted her and her brother as youngsters from Howard's San Jose homestead. Intercepting and battling the marauders, he'd retrieved his children from a cactus patch where they'd been left.

A wanted man, Howard, after changing his name, squatted hidden in a one-room sandstone cabin he built in Oak Creek Canyon, a red-rock refuge in northern Arizona, near today's Sedona. In his early 60s, he wed the widow Elizabeth James, but that union lasted only three months—his new wife didn't like Howard's smelly hounds lying around the house, and he gave away her cattle to people in need. Undeterred, he chased bears, elk, deer, mountain lions and antelope in the Territory, selling game to railroad crews and lumbermen in Flagstaff, then the largest town on the line connecting Albuquerque and the West Coast. Bear meat—grizzly and black—sold over the counter, just like prime rib. Together with the official bounty, a bear's meat, hide and tallow could fetch $50, ten times a laborer's daily wage, some of which Howard spent on the occasional toot. By July 4, 1885, he'd already killed 12 bears for the season. Along Oak Creek, he also again bred horses and mules and at 69 still mastered the meanest broncos. The snow on the rim could get so deep that he sometimes rode his horse right over the fence tops.

His strength allegedly grew as he aged. Described as "all molars," he could "whip just about anyone" even in his twilight years. The stories, inflated, outgrew the man. But like the extinction of Arizona's grizzlies he so lustily aided, Bear's end in 1910 marked that of an era.

Master tracker and hunter "Bear" Howard used his isolated cabin in Arizona's Oak Creek Canyon as his headquarters for hunting and raising horses. He became well-known in nearby Flagstaff (above), where he regularly sold bear meat and other game to local butchers.

– COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS –

Michael Engelhard lived in Flagstaff, Arizona. As a former Grand Canyon river guide he feels an affinity with historical woodsmen—and women—such as "Bear" Howard.

"Bear" Howard (center) with fellow hunters, rifle, hounds and black bears in downtown Flagstaff, circa 1890-1900.

- COURTESY OF SEDONA HERITAGE MUSEUM, SEDONA, ARIZONA -

BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

Jesse James and the Road to Gallatin

The early outlaw years of Missouri's legendary outlaw trail can be discovered on a road trip across the Show-Me state.

In 1867, former Confederate guerrilla fighters (l.–r.) Fletch Taylor, Frank James and younger brother, Jesse, reunited in Nashville, where they took time to stand for their portrait at Carl C. Gier's photo studio.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

Poor Jesse James might not have been the victim of what amounted to state-sanctioned murder in 1882—or so many bad movies—if he hadn't made that first career blunder in Gallatin, Missouri, in 1869. But how did the West's most notorious bank, train and stagecoach robber get to Gallatin?

It starts at the family farm outside of present-day Kearney, Missouri, where Jesse Woodson James was born on September 5, 1847, and where visitors today can tour the museum, farmhouse and Jesse's original grave at the Jesse James Birthplace Museum.

Jesse's Kentucky-born dad, Robert James, became pastor at New Hope Baptist Church—now called New Direction Church—in Holt. Things might have turned out differently too, but in 1850, Robert James left Missouri for the California goldfields only to die of fever four months after arriving in present-day Placerville.

Then came the Civil War. Big brother Frank enlisted in the pro-Confederate Missouri State Guard, was captured during the Battle of Wilson's Creek in April 1861 near Springfield (tour Wilson's Creek National Battlefield), paroled, then broke parole and joined guerrilla William Clarke Quantrill's Southern bushwhackers.

On May 23, 1863, pro-Union forces, looking for Quantrill, hoisted Jesse's stepdad off the ground with a rope to make him talk. Legend says they also whipped 15-year-old Jesse with a rope. That eventually drove Jesse to join the bushwhackers, but the war was lost. When Jesse attempted to surrender in May 1865, he was shot through the lung.

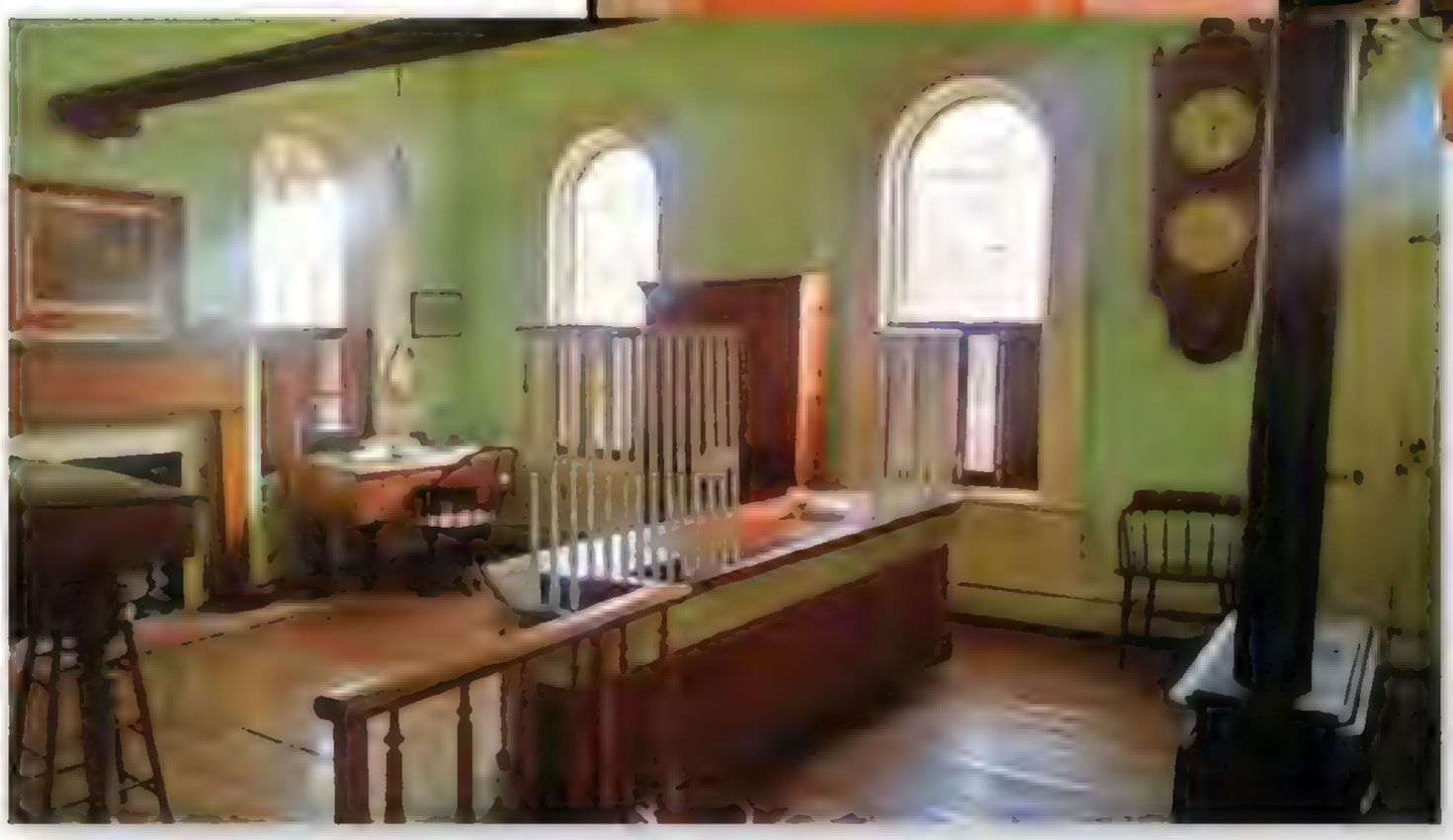
FIRST BANK ROBBERY?

On February 13, 1866, the Clay County Savings Bank in Liberty, Missouri, (visit the Jesse James Bank Museum), was robbed of roughly $60,000 in gold, currency and bonds. The gang of 10 to 12 men also killed a 19-year-old bystander. Years later, the crime was chalked up to the James-Younger Gang.

But could Jesse—still recuperating from a bullet through his lung—have taken part in

The Jesse James Birthplace Museum (right) in Kearney features the most extensive collection of James family artifacts as well as Jesse's original gravesite. Jesse's mother had his body buried outside the family home so she could keep a watchful eye on her son, but it was later reinterred at Kearney's Mount Olivet Cemetery.

– COURTESY JESSE JAMES BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM –



Two men—perhaps, though far from confirmed, Cole Younger and Frank James—entered the Clay County Savings Bank (left), protected outside by another eight to 10 men "believed... to be a gang of old bushwhacking desperadoes who stay mostly in Jackson county," according to the *Liberty Tribune*.

– ALL PHOTOS BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS UNLESS OTHEWISE NOTED –

a robbery during a bitterly cold February day? Some historians put Cole Younger and Frank there, but the fact is we just aren't certain.

William A. Settle, Jr., author of *Jesse James Was His Name* (1966), the first serious historical study of the thug, writes: "Actually, identification of the bandits is not simple. Those insiders who knew the facts talked little, and what they said was not always reported exactly. Moreover, people who could remember the events and who talked about them did not always have firsthand information."

The same can be said for the robbery of the Alexander Mitchell and Company Bank on October 30 in Lexington, Missouri (Lexington Historical Museum), that netted four robbers $2,011.50. "This is quite the coolest and most daring robbery that has happened in this part of the State since the Liberty Bank Robbery," the *Lexington Register* reported.

In his 1903 autobiography, Cole Younger wrote that "so far as I know [the Lexington job] was never connected with the Younger brothers in any way until 1880, when J.W. Buel published his *Border Bandits*." I haven't found any mention of Lexington in Buel's book. Still, most historians don't link this one to the boys.

NOT THE JAMES BOYS

Two Missouri bank jobs the following year in Savannah (Andrew County Museum) and Richmond (Ray County Museum), later attributed to Frank and Jesse, probably weren't committed by any Jameses or Youngers. The M.O. and outcome of the March 2 attempt to rob Judge John McClain's private banking enterprise doesn't point to the boys: Five or six bandits ask McClain for the key to the vault. When the judge refuses, he is shot, and the outlaws flee empty-handed.

In *The Outlaw Youngers*, Marley Brant calls this perhaps "the first 'copycat' robbery attempt." Three ex-bushwhackers were reportedly arrested, including Robert Pope, who was identified as the man who wounded the judge.

Regarding the Richmond job on May 23, Jesse might be thankful that he and the boys weren't there. The gang, numbering from 11 to 20, took some $3,500 from the Hughes & Wasson Bank. When they rode out, three citizens were dead. By that time, T.J. Stiles wrote in *Jesse James: Last Rebel of the Civil War*, "authorities were ready to strike when old Quantrill and Anderson men appeared on the list of suspects."

Eight men were originally charged with the crime. A horse thief named Felix Bradley, who wasn't charged, was lynched. Dick Burns and Payne Jones, were charged, were captured and were lynched. So was Tom Little. And Andy McGuire. And even Jim Devers, who was later arrested because he might have been involved. Allen Parmer, who was charged, luckily had an alibi.

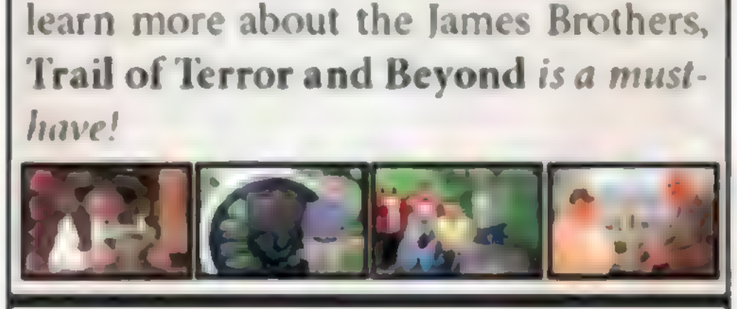
(Jesse might not have taken part in this robbery, but Richmond's two cemeteries are home to two important men in Jesse's life—his Civil War commander Bloody Bill Anderson and Jesse's assassin Robert Ford.)

True Story

Ride with James/ Younger Gang

Trail of Terror & Beyond 1866-1876

If you're a history buff or just want to learn more about the James Brothers, **Trail of Terror and Beyond** *is a must-have!*



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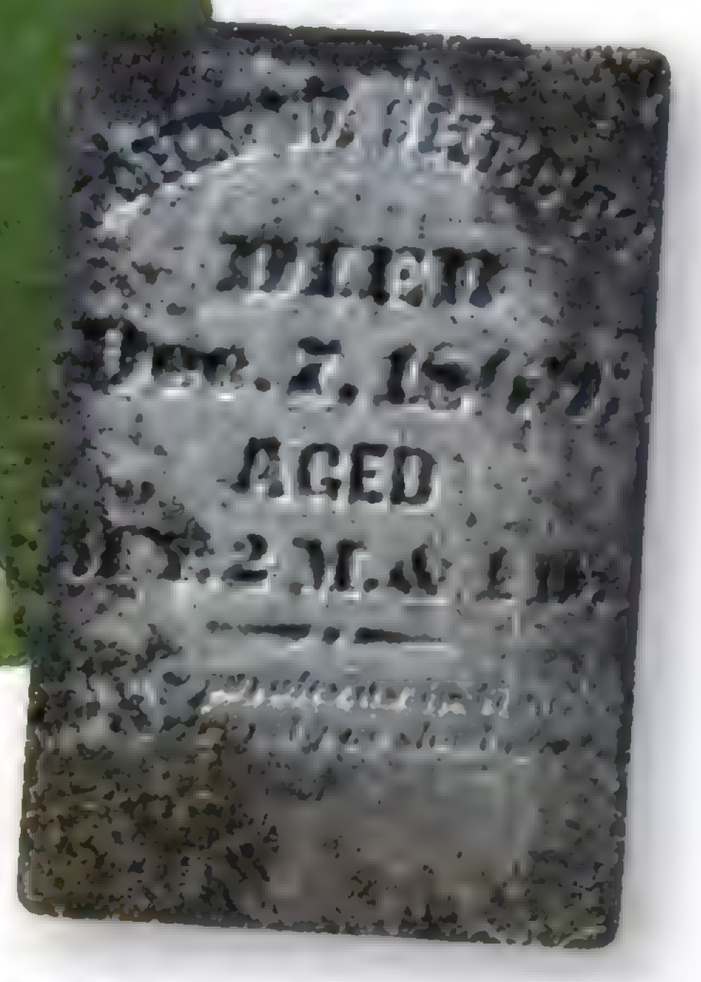
John Sheets was murdered inside the Daviess County Savings Association in Gallatin, Missouri, in 1869—a victim of mistaken identity. The killer, likely Jesse James, thought he was Samuel P. Cox, commander of the Union forces that had killed "Bloody Bill" Anderson. Sheets is buried in a cemetery across from the First Baptist Church.



The earliest bank job that most likely can be credited to Cole Younger and the two James brothers happened in Russellville, Kentucky (take the downtown walking tour), when five to six men robbed the Nimrod & Co. Bank of around $12,000. The M.O. fit. Frank and Jesse had friends and family in Kentucky. One robber called himself "Thomas Coleman." Two pals of Jesse and Frank, brothers Oll and George Shepherd, were suspected. George was arrested, identified and sentenced to three years in prison. Authorities shot and killed Oll Shepherd at his father's house near Lee's Summit, Missouri.

THE REAL JAMES GANG

But it wasn't until the botched Daviess County Savings Association job that Frank and Jesse were first named as suspects. In Gallatin, Missouri (check out the 1889 Squirrel Cage Jail), two men walked into the bank on December 7, 1869.

Jesse mistook bank president John W. Sheets for Samuel P. Cox, commander of the Union forces that had killed "Bloody Bill." Being Jesse, he promptly murdered Sheets and wounded another man. Outside, while trying to escape, Jesse was thrown off his horse. His foot caught in the stirrup, and the horse dragged him 30 or 40 feet before he freed himself. Frank rode back, Jesse swung up behind his brother, and the two escaped. But they left that horse behind.

The bay mare was named Kate. She was known to be Jesse's horse, and although Jesse said he had sold the mare to a Topeka, Kansas, man, Gallatin residents offered a $1,500 reward for the arrest of the James brothers.

From then on, until Jesse's death and Frank's surrender, the James boys were wanted men.

Johnny D. Boggs's latest book, *The American West on Film* (ABC-CLIO), includes a chapter on the 2007 movie *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford.*

WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD

The Jackson County Marshal's Home and Jail Museum
Independence, Missouri

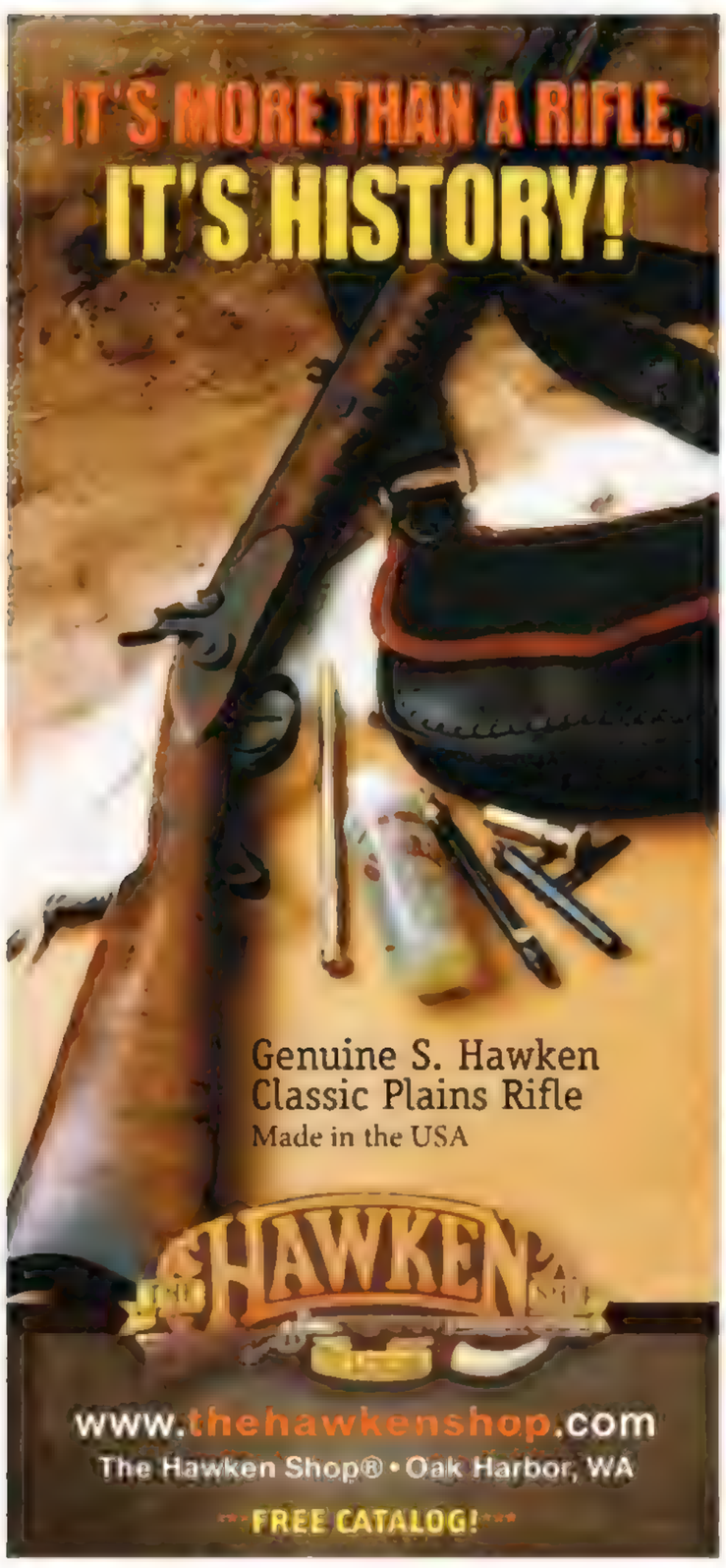
The jail in Independence, Missouri, which opened in 1859, housed a lot of guests before it was decommissioned in 1933—but probably none more famous than Frank James. Jesse's brother was a guest while awaiting trials after surrendering upon Jesse's death, but the jail held prisoners during the Civil War, too. One of those was Sheriff Jim Knowles, being held on a murder charge. When Confederate forces under Colonels John Hughes and Upton Hays and bushwhacker William Quantrill attacked Independence in August 1862, bushwhacker George Todd entered the jail to free Southern prisoners. He found Knowles, and, in true bushwhacker form, murdered Knowles for revenge.

The jail of limestone cells and the brick home of the city marshal were restored in 1959, thanks in part to another significant Missourian: Former President Harry Truman. Still operated by the Jackson County Historical Society, the 1859 Jail Museum celebrates its 60th anniversary this year.

GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

GOOD GRUB: Gino's, *Kearney, MO*; **CONRAD's Restaurant & Alehouse**, *Liberty, MO*; **Diner 71**, *Savannah, MO*; **Slappyz Family Diner**, *Russellville, KY*

GOOD LODGING: The Elms Hotel & Spa, *Excelsior Springs, MO*; **Wentworth Hotel**, *Lexington, MO*; **Wren's Nest Bed & Breakfast**, *Russellville, KY*; **Arbor House Country Inn**, *Jamesport, MO*



FRONTIER FARE

BY SHERRY MONAHAN

Pampered Pioneers at the Broadmoor

Experience the finest in hospitality and gourmet dining at Colorado Springs' grande dame.

Colorado Springs, Colorado's Broadmoor Hotel, conceptualized by developer Spencer Penrose, opened in 1918. The hotelier's "Grande Dame of the Rocky Mountains" quickly gained an international reputation for its superior accommodations and gourmet dining.

– COURTESY BROADMOOR ARCHIVES –

Before the Broadmoor Hotel was opened by Spencer Penrose in 1918, other grandes dames, like the Hotel del Coronado in California and the Lake Yellowstone Hotel in Wyoming, were offering upscale accommodations. Those hotels were considered lavish at the time and pampered their guests who often stayed for weeks. The del Coronado had the ocean, Yellowstone had the national park and Penrose the crisp clean air of Pikes Peak in Colorado.

It was in this idyllic setting where Penrose planned the Broadmoor. His goal was to operate the most luxurious hotel in the world and his destination property included something for everyone—who had money. He created a golf course and offered boating and polo. The hotel's interior decorator, Charles Westing of Philadelphia, emphatically stated in 1917, "the Broadmoor hotel will be one of the most remarkable in the world." By 1920, Penrose was the envy of hotel men across America.

Penrose wanted nothing but the best, so he hired a 32-year-old Italian chef named Louis Stratta and ensured his waitstaff was trained to the European standards of the day. Stratta believed in food tasting good as well as being eye-appealing. He served as the Broadmoor's head chef and the pastry chef for decades. Of flavor he said, "Cookery in America is all going to the bad, since Prohibition has come in. How can one get the flavor, the dash, in the food, when there is no wine or brandy? You want to save American cookery? Get them to vote back the liquor, so then we have delicious food again." Penrose did hoard a cache of liquor during Prohibition, but it seems he didn't let his chef cook with it.

Resort guests chose from multiple magnificent dining rooms that included a banquet hall, two private rooms, the palm court, children's dining room, a grill for golfers and an enclosed lake terrace. The grand opening menu included cream of chicken soup, Broadmoor Trout au Bleu,

sauce exquisite, Braised Sweetbreads with pearls of truffles, Boneless Royal Squab, roasted with guava jelly, Romaine Salad and Cherries, Souffle Glacé and Plain coffee. Today guests can choose epicurean delights from the Penrose Room, Ristorante Del Lago, Summit, Golden Bee and the historic La Taverne, The Grille or the Lake Terrace Dining Room.

David Patterson, the Broadmoor's current executive chef, respects and honors the history of food at all the Broadmoor properties. Hotel information says, "Our all-inclusive Wilderness Experience menus were also conceived and executed by David and his team to have a unique take on the history of each location." Patterson is proud to be among the handful of men who were chefs in the Broadmoor's long history.

Guests staying at the Broadmoor's Wilderness Experiences properties have other options. Cloud Camp, which was built on Penrose's original 1926 site on Cheyenne Mountain, offers four tasty rotating options. Cloud Camp also pays tribute to Penrose's member-only cooking club he founded in 1912 with president Chester A. Arthur's son, also named Chester, by offering cooking and cocktail demos. The Ranch at Emerald Valley, another historic Penrose retreat, offers something similar, but also serves a cowboy-style cookout two nights a week.

Sip this popular Prohibition cocktail in your own space or at one of the many Broadmoor watering holes and drift back to another era.

THE BEE'S KNEES

2 oz. gin
1 oz. lemon juice
1 oz. honey simple syrup
Lemon twist for garnish

To make the honey syrup, combine two parts honey and one part water and heat until blended. Cool. Combine the gin, lemon juice and syrup with ice in a shaker. Shake vigorously and strain into a martini glass. Garnish with lemon twist.

Recipe courtesy Broadmoor Hotel, Spirit of the West, Sarah Anschultz Hunt

Sherry Monahan kicked off her journey into Old West cuisine, spirits and places by authoring *Taste of Tombstone*. Visit *SherryMonahan.com* to learn more about her books, awards and TV appearances.

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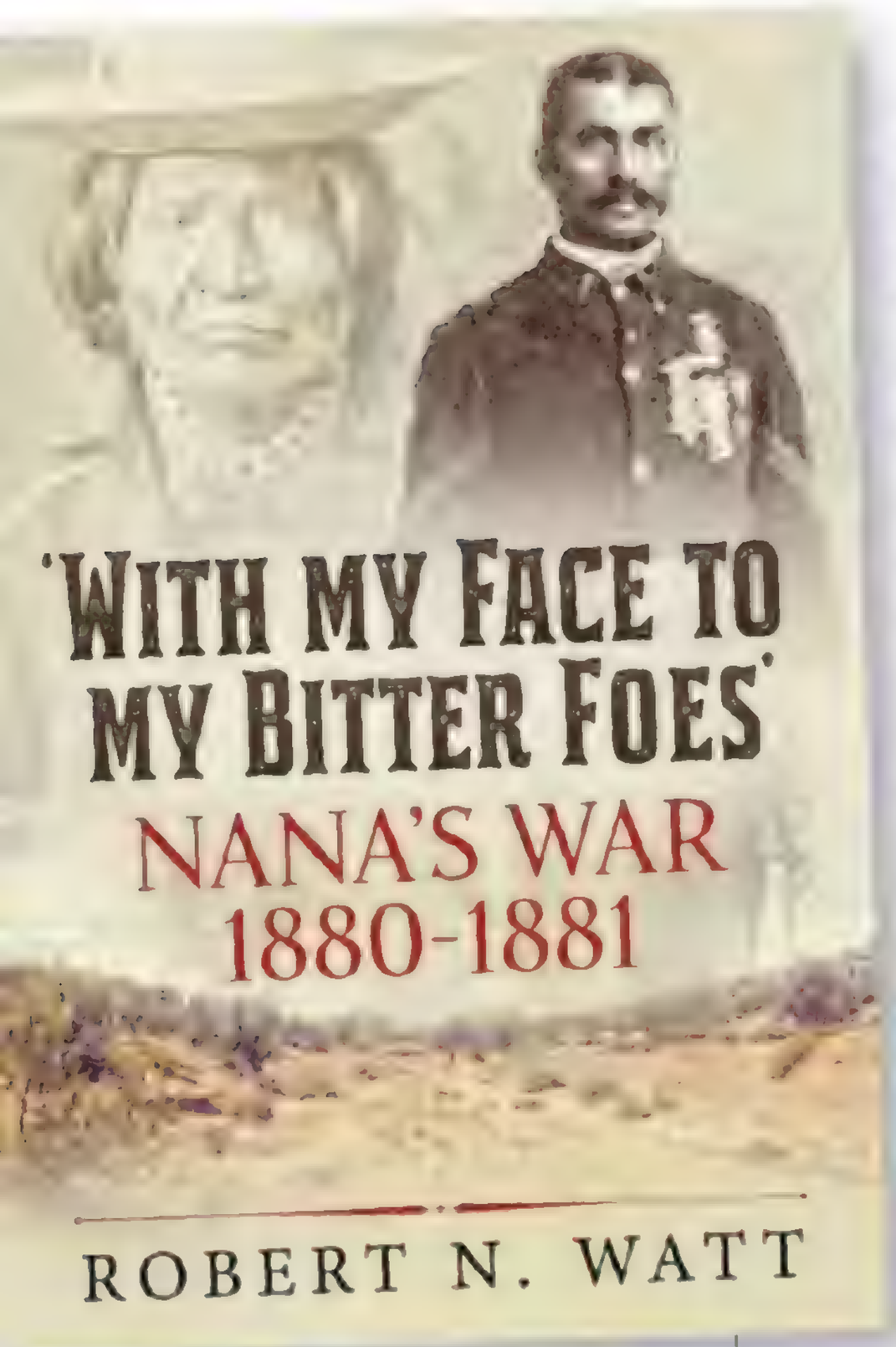


Bloody War, Bitter Peace

A new Apache history of Nana's War, plus a collection of essays on the frontier Army, a new Spillane-Collins Western, an enlightening biography of Buffalo Bill and a mountain man adventure in the 1830s West.

Historian Robert N. Watt's *"With My Face to My Bitter Foes": Nana's War 1880-1881* (Helion & Company, $49.95) is the much-anticipated conclusion to his Chihenne Apache/Victorio Campaign of 1879-1881 three-volume series. The scholar's comprehensive research of the lesser known Apache conflict (as compared to the Cochise- and Geronimo-led Chiricahua Apache wars) establishes a new baseline for scholarship on the Indian war. "While the Victorio Campaign has not been completely forgotten in general terms, it has not yet been given due credit as one of the most important events in the history of the conflict between the Apaches and their U.S. and Mexican opponents," Watt writes. "For historians, the lessons to be drawn from a detailed study of the Victorio Campaign is that the minutiae of history are not to be dismissed."

Students of Apache history who read Watt's "*With My Face to My Bitter Foes*" will quickly realize they will want to read his two previous volumes in the Helion & Company series: *Horses Worn to Mere Shadows: The Victorio Campaign 1880* (2019) and *"I Will Not Surrender the Hair of a Horse's Tail": The Victorio Campaign 1879* (2018) and add them to their library of U.S.-Indian history. Watt's books should be recognized as the greatest multi-volume contribution to Apache-American history and warfare since Edwin Sweeney's comprehensive and multi-volume series on the Apache wars were published between 1991 and 2010.

Readers will also come to a quick realization that Watt is not just an ivory-tower researcher from the U.K. but a historian who has traveled thousands of miles—multiple times—to drive and hike through the rugged Southwestern lands where the Apaches fought for their lives and land. His boots-on-the-ground methodology is demonstrated in both his prose—which reflects his knowledge of the land and climate where Nana's War occurred—and his photo illustrations, which provide the reader with a present sense of where the conflict took place in 1880-1881.

A lecturer in the Department of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Birmingham, Watt is currently one of the world's most active academic historians investigating, researching and writing about the Apache Indians of the American Southwest. Like his two prior volumes, "*With My Face to My Bitter Foes*'" contains an inclusive bibliography that will immediately become a must-have resource. His appendix to the materials of the first chapter and historical supplements—including "The Victorio Campaign August 1879-October 1881: Campaign Chronology"—are invaluable for researchers.

Equally important to his research is the fact that Watt is an international historian with interdisciplinary training in comparative imperialism, military history and colonialism. As an academic, his prose is very scholarly, densely descriptive and when necessary, purposely provocative. He poignantly states in his conclusion: "neither Victorio nor Nana succeeded in achieving their objective [the return of their Ojo Caliente reservation]; the U.S. government did not force or persuade the Chihenne Apaches to surrender; and the Chihuahua government did not eradicate their Apache opponents. Thus, in short-term, nobody achieved their policy goals. In other words, nobody won."

—*Stuart Rosebrook*

ROUGH DRAFTS

With this December issue, we'll end the year with two bonus reviews and my challenge to all readers for 2020 to rediscover an author who brought you into the genre of Western history and fiction. Email me at *Stuart@twmag.com* and let me know who you are going to re-read in 2020. I'm going to start with Brian Garfield.

–Stuart Rosebrook

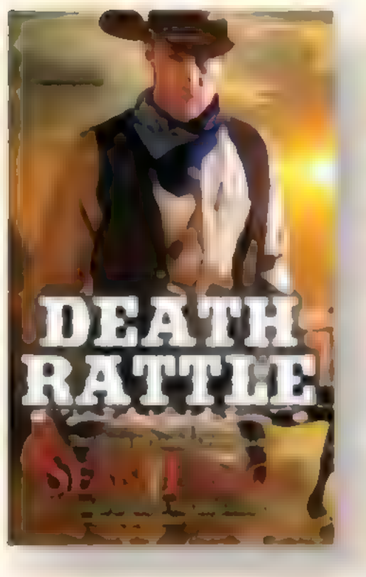
Legendary Lawmen

Bill Markley's ***Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson: Lawmen of the Legendary West*** (TwoDot, $16.95) puts a lively spin on the story of two of the Old West's best-known figures. Meticulously researched by Markley and illustrated by Jim Hatzell, the book braids together the gunsmoke-choked lives of Earp and Masterson, who met on the Kansas buffalo plains in the 1870s and remained close friends until Masterson's death in 1921. Markley makes a call on whether Wyatt or Bat was the best lawman. But I think the strength of this book is the clear evidence of their cool courage and their unflinching loyalty to each other.

–Ollie Reed Jr., staff writer for the Albuquerque Journal

Action-Packed Western

Mayor Burnell Shipley isn't satisfied with owning most of Atherton, Missouri. Now, with the war, he uses his position of provost marshal to take even more "for the war effort." Having Samuel Pritchard's father murdered for his sawmill wasn't enough either. Mrs. Pritchard is forced to become Shipley's new wife in order to save her son's life. Samuel is expelled permanently from Atherton in the deal, but honest dealing isn't Shipley's way. Sean Lynch's ***Death Rattle*** (Pinnacle, $7.99) is chock full of action that follows Samuel full circle from Texas back to Missouri. Retribution is a long time coming, but can he succeed against a stacked deck?



–Monty McCord, author of When I Die–The Legend of Joe Mundy

Young Pistolero Series

by Robert J. Alvarado

This award-winning saga is set primarily in the Southwest where Americans are settling after the Mexican-American War. The territories are undergoing unique and savage change as they shed 300 years of Spanish rule. The saga is told through the life of a young peasant, a fugitive on the run riding a stolen Appaloosa stallion. He enters Texas in 1866 to find life on this side of the border holds new dangers along with the promise of a new life. The author integrates historical aspects into a tale, rich with both good and evil, in a time when the Wild West was in full swing.

Alvarado's novel could be the basis for a television western, because of its engrossing plot and its clear depiction of heroes and villains

–Dr. Jennie Nelson, PhD in Rhetoric and Writing, Carnegie Mellon University, post-graduate professor of writing, University of Idaho

Mr. Alvarado vividly illustrates many rugged times after the Civil and Mexican American Wars through the eyes of a 17 year old peon who comes to the U.S. and adapts and grows into a hero. The Young Pistolero is a great new historical western series!

–Richard Golenda, post Secondary and College History Teacher and post Chairman of the Pueblo Economic Development Corporation

The author's descriptions, dialogue, and conversations are so right on that it will make the reader feel as if they were right there in the midst of all of it. 2015-2017 #1 Top Ten Fiction

–Corina Martinez Chaudhry, Latino Author

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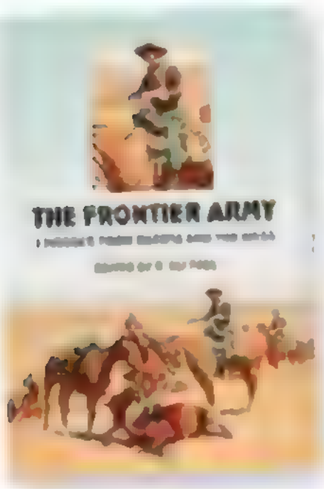
SOLDIERING ON THE FRONTIER

According to Eli Paul, the editor of *The Frontier Army: Episodes from Dakota and the West* (South Dakota Historical Society Press, $28.70), a slim, but densely packed collection of short essays, the book is intended to present new sources and a fresh look at familiar



topics pertaining to the history and culture of the frontier army, especially in the Dakotas. The authors, historians of frontier history, joined in producing this work as a memorial to Thomas R. Buecker and John D. McDermott, beloved colleagues who recently passed away. The contributors have admirably succeeded in fulfilling both objectives. Besides exploring an array of fascinating topics, most of the essays, whether advertently or otherwise, shed light on the influence of race and class on the behavior of the frontier army.

—Paul Magid, author of The Gray Fox: George Crook and the Indian Wars

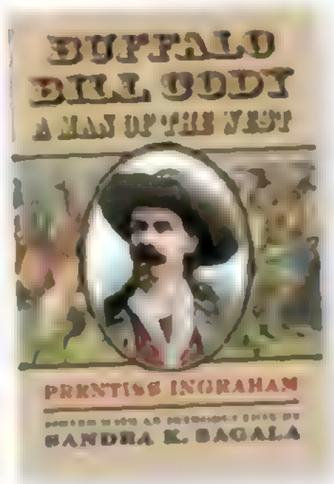
IN HELL JUNCTION, DEAD MEN DO TELL TALES

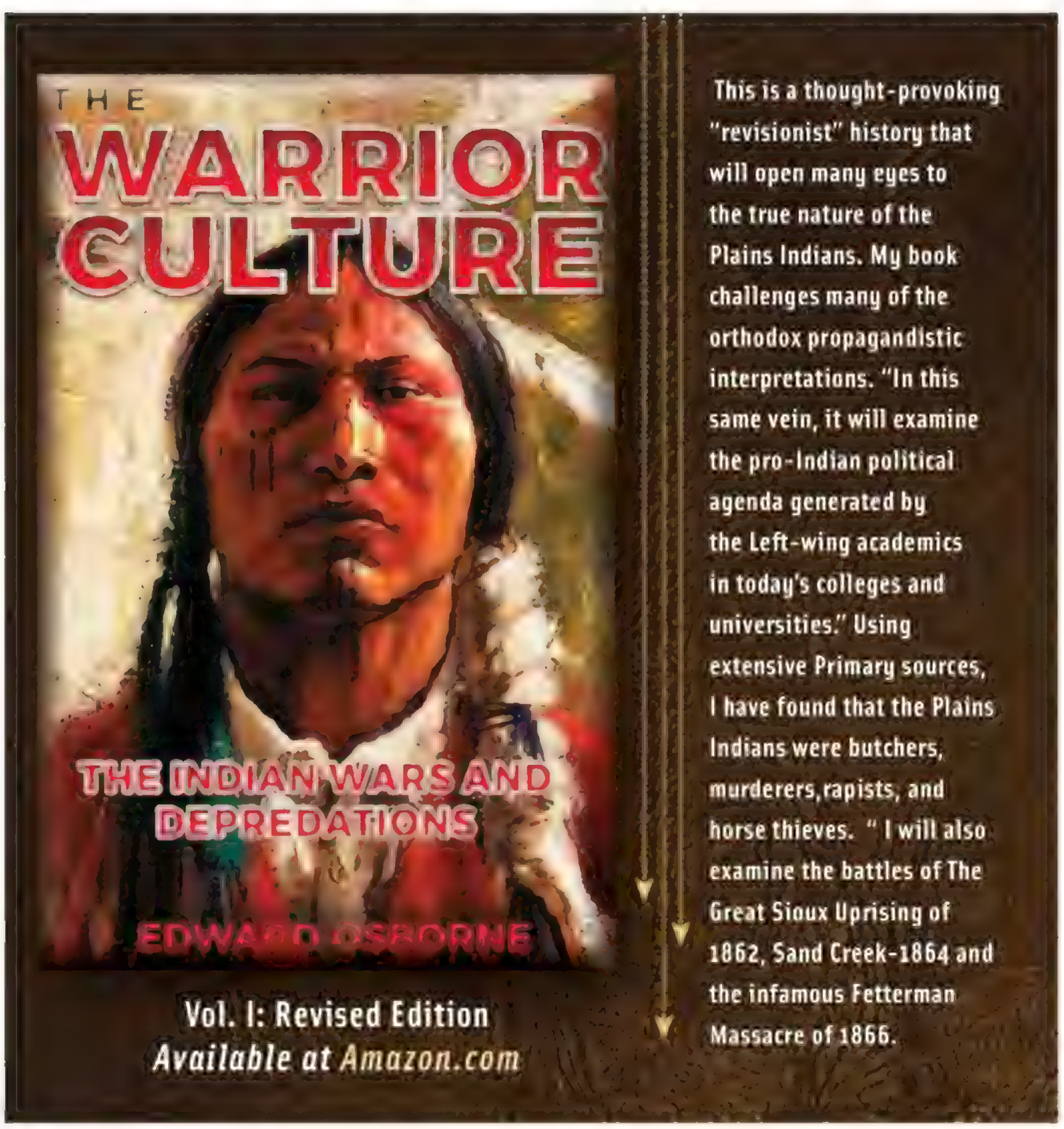
Since Mickey Spillane's death in 2006, mystery writer Max Allan Collins has collaborated posthumously with his late friend, helped by a trove of notes and unfinished stories. Now Collins gives us *Last Stage to Hell Junction* (Kensington, $25), the fourth Caleb York Western, based on a Spillane idea. Collins, who is most widely known for his graphic novel *Road to Perdition*, gives us a straight-ahead, story-driven Western about captives held by bad men in a ghost town called Hell Junction. It is a straight-shooting, two-fisted Western that will satisfy fans of the genre while paying homage to the Spillane legacy.

—Max McCoy, author of the Hellfire Canyon *Western noir trilogy*

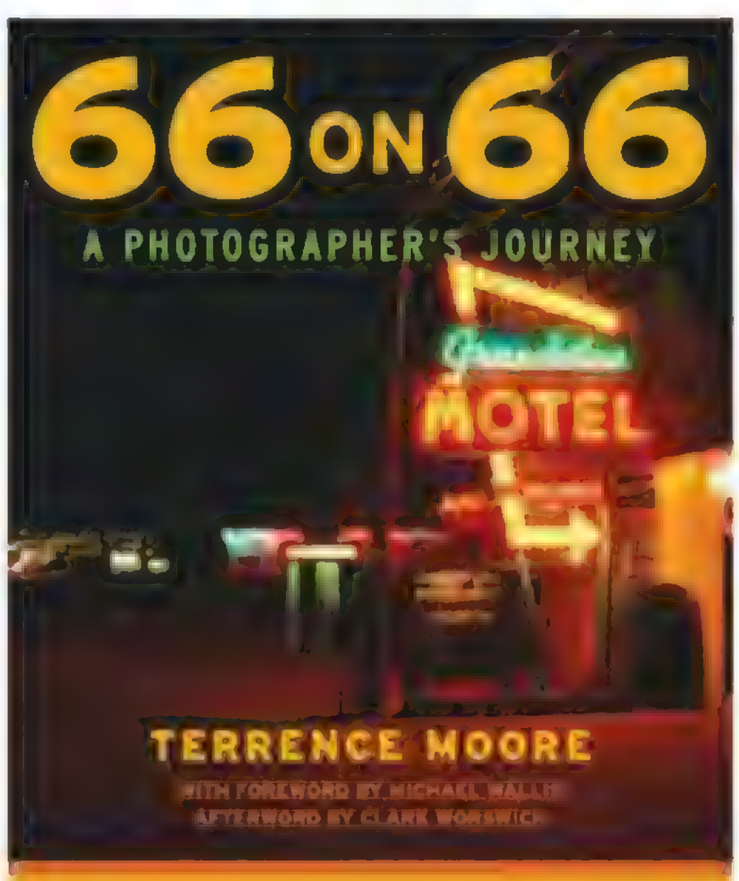
WESTERN SHOWMAN EXTRAORDINAIRE

Buffalo Bill Cody, A Man of the West (University of Kansas Press, $37.90) is a unique biography of famous scout and showman William Frederick "Buffalo Bill" Cody. Prentiss Ingraham, who authored more than 300 fictional dime novels featuring Cody, serialized this biography in the *Duluth Press* newspaper from July 13, 1895 through May 16, 1896. At the time, the biography was meant to popularize Cody's story and advertise Buffalo Bill's Wild West. Author Sandra K. Sagala collected and transcribed this biography from the original text. She has corrected the typographical errors for ease of reading and has done an excellent job





This is a thought-provoking "revisionist" history that will open many eyes to the true nature of the Plains Indians. My book challenges many of the orthodox propagandistic interpretations. "In this same vein, it will examine the pro-Indian political agenda generated by the Left-wing academics in today's colleges and universities." Using extensive Primary sources, I have found that the Plains Indians were butchers, murderers,rapists, and horse thieves. " I will also examine the battles of The Great Sioux Uprising of 1862, Sand Creek-1864 and the infamous Fetterman Massacre of 1866.



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compiling her endnotes which are full of information on historical events and individuals.

—Kellen Cutsforth, author of Buffalo Bill, Boozers, Brothels, and Bare-Knuckle Brawlers

MOUNTAIN MAN ADVENTURE

Grizzly Killer: White Snake (Wolfpack Publishing, $6.99) is the eighth book in Lane R. Warenski's series of novels about Zach Connors, the white man known as Grizzly Killer. The year is 1831 in the lands of the Shoshone, Cheyenne and Arapaho people. Getting a late start in obtaining food for the upcoming winter, Connors and his family must follow the buffalo herds far too near the tribal lands. Blue Dog, Cheyenne chief, enlists the help of powerful medicine man White Snake to avenge his brother's death at Connor's hands. One caveat: This is not a book for the squeamish. The reader will learn more than ever imagined about Indian methods of torturing an enemy to death.

—James J. Griffin, author of Blood Ties

NEWSPAPERMAN OLLIE REED JR. REPORTS ON HIS FAVORITE NEW MEXICO NOVELS

Ollie Reed Jr. was born a few blocks east of the Mississippi River in Natchez, Mississippi, but since 1976 he has been a newspaper reporter and/or freelance journalist in New Mexico. A longtime friend of Max Evans, Reed is a co-editor of and contributor to the 2014 book *Max Evans & A Few Friends*. He lives in Corrales, New Mexico, and greatly admires the authors of the New Mexico novels he recommends here.

1. ***Wolf Song*** (Harvey Fergusson, Knopf): Albuquerque native Fergusson's novel about mountain men in the high country of what is now New Mexico, vibrates with life and perilous adventure.

2. ***In Time of Harvest*** (John L. Sinclair, Macmillan Company): In his day, Sinclair was a real-deal cowboy. But this novel, his best, is about bean farmers in New Mexico's Estancia Valley in the early 1900s.

3. ***The Rounders*** (Max Evans, Macmillan Company): I discovered this novel in 1966 It's about two 20th-century New Mexico cowboys and one crazy-wild horse. I prized it then, as I treasure it now, for its outrageous humor and its true-to-the-bone depiction of cowboy life.

4. ***A Thief of Time*** (Tony Hillerman, Harper & Row): All of Hillerman's novels about Navajo Tribal Police officers Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee are entertaining journeys into contemporary New Mexico and its American Indian culture.

5. ***The Hart Brand*** (Johnny D. Boggs, Five Star): I was writing about this trail ride for *Western Horseman* magazine and Boggs was shooting the pictures for it. Some of that ride got into this rousing novel about young Caleb Hart and cattle-rustling in 1890s New Mexico.

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WESTERN MOVIES

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BY HENRY C. PARKE

True Grit's 50th Anniversary

John Wayne's Oscar-winning performance as Rooster Cogburn in the Paramount film culminated the greatest year in Western film history.

John Wayne (inset) won an Oscar for his career-defining role as Reuben "Rooster" Cogburn in Paramount Pictures' 1969 film *True Grit*. Director Henry Hathaway chose Colorado's scenic Ouray County (above), for its majestic scenery. The film would become one of the most beloved and iconic Western movies in cinema history.

– ALL IMAGES COURTESY PARAMOUNT PICTURES –

"Who is the best marshal they have?"

"The meanest one is Rooster Cogburn. He is a pitiless man, double-tough, and fear don't enter into his thinking."

"Where can I find this Rooster?"

Half a century ago, audiences awaited the premiere of *True Grit* with some trepidation. After all, its star, John Wayne, had lost a lung to cancer. He'd done movies since, but none as vigorous as this, and his recent film, *The Green Berets*, had received a tepid-to-terrible reception due to its gung-ho support of the nation-polarizing Vietnam War. Joyously, his fans' doubts were misplaced. It was a wonderful story, a wonderful film, and Wayne's performance would earn an Oscar.

True Grit is the story of 14-year-old Mattie Ross's battle for justice after her father's murderer escapes into Indian Territory. Mattie hires notoriously tough and disreputable Rooster Cogburn and, joined by Texas Ranger Le Boeuf, they try

Oscar-winning producer Hal Wallis outbid John Wayne's Batjac Productions for the film rights to Charles Portis's 1968 novel *True Grit* before it was even published. He hired veteran screenwriter Marguerite Roberts to adapt the historical Western for the big screen.

to bring the killer back to Judge Parker's court for trial.

When Wayne read Charles Portis's novel, his Batjac Productions immediately bid for the film rights, only to be outbid by legendary producer Hal Wallis, who four years earlier had produced *The Sons of Katie Elder* with Wayne! Duke confronted Wallis and learned to his surprise that Wallis had bought it intending for Wayne to star.

To write and direct, Wallis brought in the pair he'd teamed for *5 Card Stud*, Marguerite Roberts and Henry Hathaway. Roberts was ideal for Westerns; her grandfather had been a sheriff, her father a town marshal. "Daddy put me on a horse before I knew how to walk," she would tell Tina Daniell. "I was weaned on stories about gunfighters and their doings, and I know all the lingo, too." She'd scripted pictures for Gable, Peck, Mitchum and Tracy, but for a decade, she hadn't written anything that reached the screen. She'd joined the Communist Party in the 1930s, quit in the '40s, but when questioned by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, she refused to name names and was blacklisted. Would Wayne, who'd supported the blacklist, even read her script? Yes; and often thereafter he'd say

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Despite being 61 and the challenges of filming in the high elevations of Colorado's San Juan Mountains, John Wayne performed most of his stunts in *True Grit*, including his climactic, galloping shootout astride his horse with the reins in his teeth.

it was the best screenplay he'd ever read. Portis, who visited the set, notes, "The screenplay stayed pretty close to the book. I noticed that...Hathaway used the book itself, with the pages much underlined, when he was setting up scenes."

Hathaway began as a child actor in Allan Dwan Westerns in 1909. By age 14 he was a prop-boy at Universal, and after serving in the Army in World War I, was back in Hollywood, assisting masters like Victor Fleming, Joseph von Sternberg and Ernst Lubitsch. Between 1932 and '33 he directed seven Zane Grey Westerns for Paramount starring Randolph Scott.

Hathaway had known Wayne since they were both silent-movie prop-men, and he'd already directed Wayne in five movies. But, as Hathaway himself explained it, "To be a good director, you've got to be a bastard. I'm a bastard and I know it." Stuntman Gary Combs, who'd come to *True Grit* straight from *The Wild Bunch*, explains it more generously. "Henry knew everybody's job on the set just as well as he did his own, 'cause he'd been around for so long." He had no patience and screamed at actors.

Rosemary's Baby star Mia Farrow had agreed to play Mattie, but Robert Mitchum, who'd made *5 Card Stud* with Hathaway, warned Farrow against working with him. Farrow asked Wallis to replace Hathaway with *Rosemary's Baby* director Roman Polanski. That was the end for Mia, who years later would tell *The Independent* that turning down the roll of Mattie "was the worst career choice I ever made." Wayne asked Katharine Ross, his co-star in *The Hellfighters*, about the role. She recalls: "I read the book, and she was 14, and I thought that I was too old, so I didn't do it. What an idiot." She made *Butch Cassidy* instead.

Then Wallis saw Kim Darby in an episode of *Run for Your Life*, and knew he'd found Mattie Ross. Although 22, with a newborn baby, and divorcing James Stacy, she gave a convincing performance as the feisty 14-year-old.

For the role of Le Boeuf, Wallis cast Elvis Presley, who'd shown his acting talent in the Western, *Flaming Star*. All that Col. Tom Parker, Elvis' Svengali, demanded was that Elvis be billed above Wayne. Elvis was out, and in was country singer and first-time actor Glen Campbell.

Puzzlingly, Jay Silverheels, the Lone Ranger's Tonto, has a no-lines role as one of three men hanged when Mattie first arrives at Fort Smith. A look at the novel and screenplay reveals that originally each man had a speech, drawn from newspaper accounts, but all were cut from the film. It was a memorable scene for Combs, who doubled for Campbell and Robert Duvall, and was also up on the scaffold. "[We wore] leggings with cables that went under your instep, and up to a harness on your hip, so when you drop, you hit on your insteps, not your neck." They wore hoods. "The trapdoor was pretty small, and when you drop, you don't want to hit your head. I'd pulled the hood out in front so I could see the floor. Henry's rolling camera, and as hangman Guy Wilkerson comes by me, he jerks my hood down! My hands were tied behind my back, but they just had these little [fake] things wrapped around. So I snuck my hand out, pulled the hood out, and nobody saw it. Because I didn't want to go through that hole off-center and catch my nose on the edge."

The story was set in Arkansas, but Portis learned that during the making of *How the West Was Won* Hathaway had "marked down

Producer Wallis and director Hathaway cast a mixed ensemble of seasoned, novice and celebrity actors to support Wayne (left) in *True Grit*, including veteran Western actor Ron Sobel (second from left) as Capt. Boots Finch, newcomer Kim Darby as Mattie Ross and Glen Campbell (far right) as Texas Ranger Le Boeuf.

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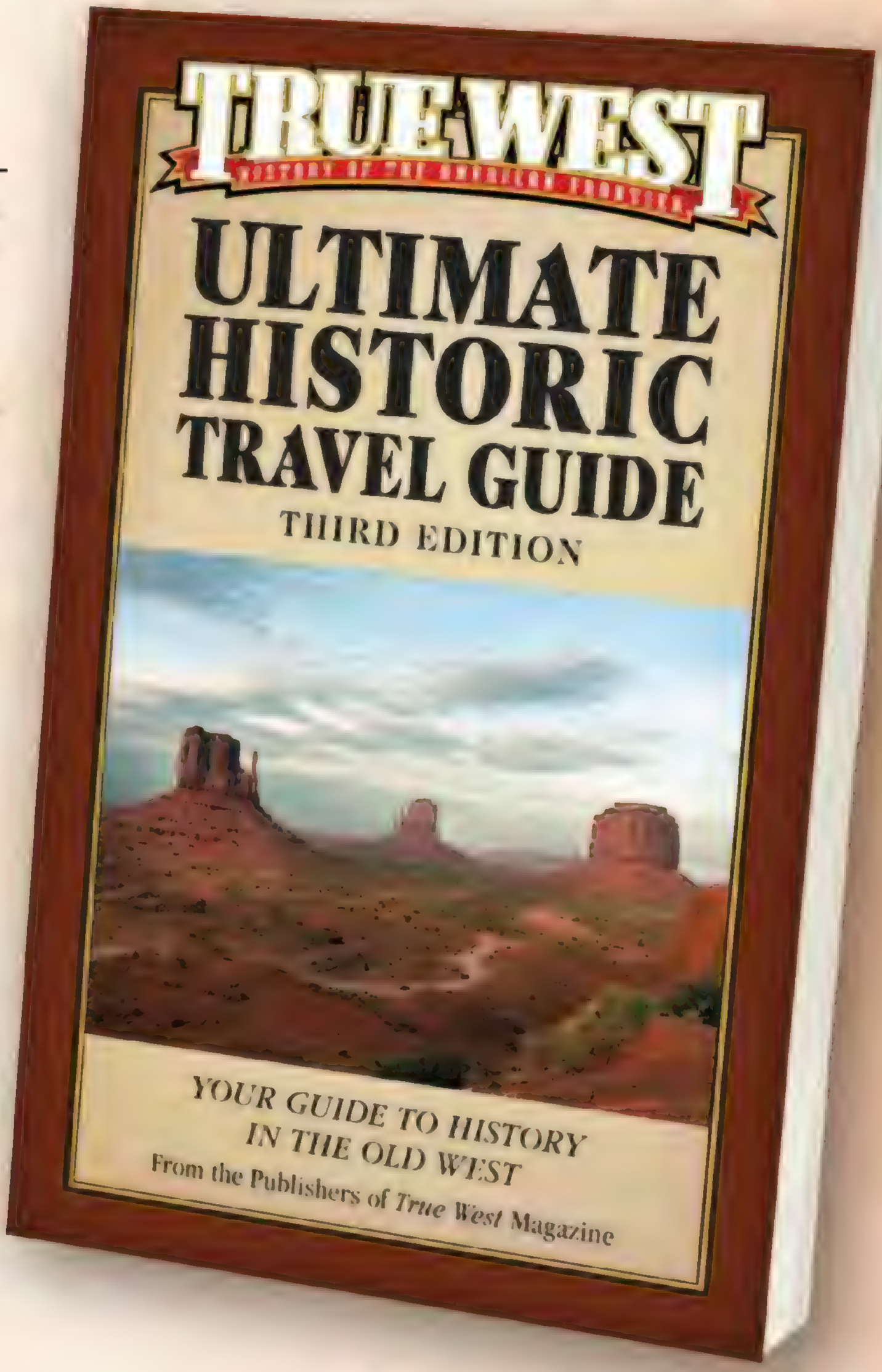
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that stand of yellow aspens in the mountains near Montrose, and was determined to make [a] Western there." It was shot largely in the tiny town of Ridgway, Colorado, where Portis got to meet Duke. "Wayne was no letdown. He was actually bigger than his image on the screen, both in stature and presence." Wayne was, in fact, so big that casting notices for extras said they had to be at least 5'10", so they wouldn't look like munchkins next to him.

For Luster Bayless, wardrobe man on a dozen Wayne movies, the smallest item was his biggest challenge: the eye patch. Wayne insisted on being able to see through the patch, and after much experimentation, Bayless concocted a patch using window-screen mesh and gauze. There are always duplicates for key wardrobe items, but, he recalled, "John wanted a fresh patch every day, because they got dirty." Also, Wayne had put on weight. "He had some trouble getting on and off the horse. I had a stretchy fabric for his pants, that made it easier."

One unanticipated problem was just how scared Darby was of horses. Something as simple as leading her horse in a natural way was so difficult for her that, Combs remembers, "Henry went nuts. He got a fire hose—he was gonna hose her down, and the assistants came and calmed him down, and finally we got the shot." Nearly all of her riding was done by stuntwoman Polly Burson. "They made a mask of my face out of clay," Darby told the *L.A. Times*, "and she would wear that."

Glen Campbell was also not too experienced on a horse, "so they gave me a Shetland pony," he'd said. It wasn't quite that, but it did, purposely, look silly next to Wayne's steed. Campbell wasn't an experienced actor, "but the Duke promised that he could drag me through it alright." The modest Campbell often joked that his own poor acting made Wayne look so good that he won an Oscar.

Among the powerful supporting performances were Robert Duvall as Ned Pepper. "John Wayne, he was a wonderful man," Duvall remembers. "But Henry Hathaway—we won't talk about him." And in a single scene, as a rustler who gets his fingers cut off, Dennis Hopper makes an indelible impression. He and Hathaway had clashed so famously on *From Hell to Texas* that Hopper became unemployable in features for years, until Hathaway hired him for *The Sons of Katie Elder*.

They'd shot most of the final scene, with Mattie offering Rooster a place in her family's cemetery, but when they returned the next morning, there were four inches of snow on the ground. It looked so beautiful that Hathaway scrapped the previous day's footage, and shot it all over again. "Wayne wanted to jump the horse over the fence," remembers Combs. "So we took [stuntman] Chuck Hayward's falling horse, Twinkle Toes. He looked just like the horse that Duke was riding. Hayward and I were on either side, out of camera range, to protect him, but he jumped over the fence and rode off. He was fine."

Western film icon Wayne and ingenue costar Kim Darby developed a great rapport on the set of *True Grit*. According to an interview by Susan King in the *Los Angeles Times* in 2011, Darby "fondly recall[ed] working with Wayne. 'He was there on the set before anyone else and knew every line perfectly.'"

John Wayne's granddaughter, Anita La Cava Swift, had seen his movies at home. "But," she said," the first one I saw in a theater was *True Grit*. My very best friend was Alfred Hitchcock's granddaughter, and I didn't know my grandfather was as famous as he was until he won the Academy Award, and Alfred Hitchcock said, 'Make sure you tell your grandfather that I said congratulations,' I thought, okay, my grandfather *is* big-time!"

John Wayne left the Sonora set of *Undefeated* to attend the Academy Awards and receive his Oscar. When he returned, he was greeted by a strange sight: Bayless had outfitted every member of the cast and crew with an eye patch to welcome him back.

There were attempts to re-create the magic of *True Grit* over the years, including a sequel, *Rooster Cogburn*, co-starring Wayne with Katharine Hepburn, a reworking of her *African Queen*, with Wayne in the Bogart role; and the TV movie *True Grit—A Further Adventure*, starring Warren Oates. They're both watchable, but only the 2010 remake by the Coen brothers holds a candle to the original.

BLU-RAY REVIEW

TRUE GRIT (1969)

(Paramount Home Media Distribution Blu-ray $9.96; DVD $7.50) With a stunning image on Blu-ray, this timeless story grows richer with each viewing. This edition features lively and insightful commentary by Western screenwriter and author Jeb Rosebrook, with *True West*'s Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell and Editor Stuart Rosebrook. Special features include returns to the film's main location, and memories from stars Kim Darby, Glen Campbell and Jeremy Slate (as outlaw Emmett Quincy), and John Wayne's friend and wardrobe man on a dozen Westerns, Luster Bayless.

Henry C. Parke is a screenwriter based in Los Angeles, who blogs about Western movies, TV, radio and print news: *HenrysWesternRoundup.Blogspot.com*

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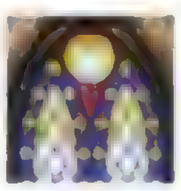

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BY LEO W. BANKS

San Angelo, Texas

West Texas history is celebrated along the banks of the Concho River.

In 1948, Texas native and famed Western writer Elmer Kelton moved to San Angelo to be the farm-and-ranch editor for the *San Angelo Standard-Times*. His storied career as the author of over 40 books is celebrated in a mural at 118 S. Chadbourne St. in his adopted hometown.

– COURTESY THE LYDA HILL TEXAS COLLECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS IN CAROL M. HIGHSMITH'S AMERICA PROJECT, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION –

The rush of westbound settlers after the Civil War led to the founding of Fort Concho in 1867. With military protection, a settlement sprouted around a trading post across the North Concho River.

The area got a boost in 1888 when the Santa Fe railroad came through. The fort closed the following year, but cattle and sheep ranching had already established a solid economic base.

Today, the town of San Angelo, the so-called pearl of West Texas, is a vibrant community of 100,000, and Fort Concho is a National Historic Landmark featuring 23 original and restored buildings.

Tour the site to see museum exhibits and artifacts, including uniforms worn by the Buffalo Soldiers, and hear stories of some of the heroic and tragic figures who were stationed there, like Ranald Mackenzie.

Called "the most promising young officer in the Army" by Gen. Ulysses Grant, Mackenzie led his 4th Cavalry to victory at Palo Duro Canyon in 1874, effectively ending the Red River War. But he spent his last years in insane asylums and died at 49.

San Angelo Today

The San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo, held since 1932, is dedicated to preserving the Western way of life and promoting

Visitors to San Angelo can stroll back in time on the city's oldest boulevard, Concho Street, and at Eggemeyer's General Store (left). The Eggemeyer family opened their store at the present location at 35 East Concho after they restored the turn-of-the-century building in the early 1990s.

– COURTESY THE LYDA HILL TEXAS COLLECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS IN CAROL M. HIGHSMITH'S AMERICA PROJECT, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION –

The Santa Fe Depot and Railway Museum (right) of San Angelo is located at the historic station on the southside of downtown. Open on Saturdays, the museum features exhibits on the historic building and a decommissioned engine, and explains how the railroad changed the course of the West Texas city's history.

– COURTESY THE LYDA HILL TEXAS COLLECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS IN CAROL M. HIGHSMITH'S AMERICA PROJECT, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION –

agricultural education to kids. Today, it draws more than 150,000 to the county fairgrounds. In 2020, the rodeo runs January 30 to February 16.

The association that puts on the show also hosts the Cinch Roping Fiesta in October, a livestock show in November and a quarter horse show in January.

To get a feel for San Angelo, head downtown and see more than 80 fiberglass sheep standing on the sidewalk and outside businesses. They're the town's calling card, an homage to its agricultural prowess, specifically its status as a major wool producer.

Another distinction is the abundance of water from the river, a reservoir and two lakes, which gives San Angelo a prettier, greener look than other places in West Texas. And the cowboys in town from the surrounding farms and ranches are the real deal.

"Concrete has swallowed other cities, but we still feel like Texas," says Diann Bayes, vice president of the San Angelo Convention & Visitors Bureau. "The other day at a burger place the guy in front of me wore spurs and his hat had a sweat ring because he'd spent the day throwing hay bales."

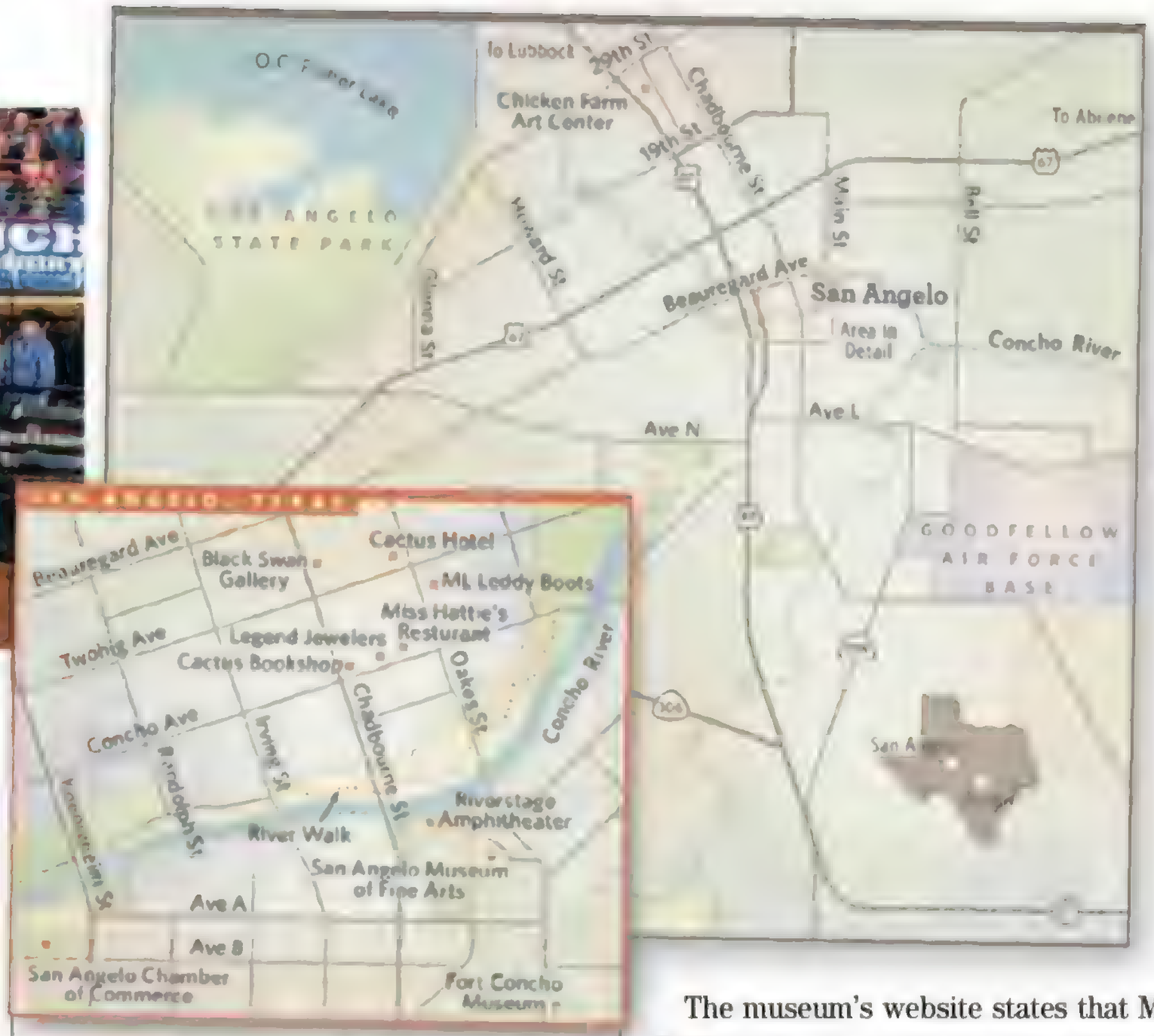
Stop at Miss Hattie's Restaurant & Cathouse Lounge for a Brothel Burger, named among the best in Texas. At Legend Jewelers, see items made with Concho pearls, taken from Tampico mussels in the Concho River. The mesmerizing colors of

Frontier Day, an annual living history event with frontier cavalry re-enactments at Fort Concho National Historic Landmark, will be held on April 27, 2020.

– COURTESY SAN ANGELO CVB –

Founded in 1932, the San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo is a 17-day event that attracts over 150,000 spectators to the Tom Green County Fairgrounds. The rodeo is one of the nation's largest annual PRCA events and the livestock show has over 5,500 4-H and FFA exhibitors.

- COURTESY SAN ANGELO CVB -



this highly prized jewel range from light pink to rich purple.

On the second floor of the Legend Building, visit Miss Hattie's Bordello Museum. Tour five bedrooms to see pressed-tin ceilings, some original furnishings and hear stories about the girls.

The museum's website states that Miss Hattie's operated at that location from 1902 to 1952, when Texas Rangers closed it.

Use your cell phone to tour San Angelo's historic murals. *The Stagecoach Mural* shows

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a six-horse team bringing mail and settlers to the Concho Valley and another pays tribute to pioneer ranchers.

Don't miss the Concho River Walk, a four-mile stretch of beautiful greenery along the gently flowing water. With three million colorful lights during the Tour of Lights celebration, Christmas is a perfect time to go.

San Angelo State Park features 50 miles of trails and part of the official state longhorn herd. Some of the longhorns roam free.

"Hikers and bikers have a good chance of seeing them," says Assistant Superintendent Tony Wheeler. Tony Wheeler. "Sometimes you'll go down a trail and a longhorn will be staring right at you."

Fun Fact: The Cactus Hotel was built by hotel magnate Conrad Hilton in the late 1920s. See blue and gold Spanish tiles and the skylight ceiling in the ornate lobby. The 15th floor has 21 windows overlooking the city. ★

Leo W. Banks is an award-winning writer based in Tucson. He is the author of the mystery novel, *Double Wide*.

WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE HIGHWAY

San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts
San Angelo, Texas
– COURTESY SAN ANGELO CVB –

To start your trip, stop at the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce, 418 Avenue B.
SanAngelo.org

FORT CONCHO

Stroll the grounds of National Historic Landmark Fort Concho, tour its museum to learn about the daily life of a frontier soldier and visit 23 original and restored buildings.
FortConcho.com

COWBOY BOOTS

Stop under the neon cowboy boot hanging over the sidewalk, home to M.L. Leddy Boots, and watch through the picture window as expert craftsmen work. The company, which makes saddles and other items, began in 1922 and has been in San Angelo since 1936.
Leddys.com

READ THE WEST

Browse Cactus Bookshop on Concho Avenue to find a wide range of books on Texana, Western Americana and everything Elmer Kelton. The beloved San Angelo resident, who passed away in 2009, was voted best Western author of all time by the Western Writers of America.
CactusBookshop.com

ENJOY THE ARTS

Under a covered wagon roof, San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts has three galleries focusing on ceramics, paintings and sculptures. The Black Swan Gallery & Wine Bar features art from around the world and serves to-die-for cheesecake from Eli's in Chicago. The museum also features one of the finest collections of early Texas art in the Lone Star State.
SAMFA.org

Wonders of the West

EDITED BY STUART ROSENTHAL AND THE EDITORS OF *TRUE WEST*

Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody, WY

– COURTESY BBCW –

TRUE WEST ULTIMATE HISTORIC TRAVEL GUIDE: MUSEUMS OF THE OLD WEST

TRUE WEST
ULTIMATE HISTORIC TRAVEL GUIDE

Discover our collective past, curated and interpreted in the best history museums of the Western United States.

From the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., to the National Park Service's Iñupiat Heritage Center above the Arctic Circle in Barrow, Alaska, the history of the American West has been collected, saved, curated, displayed and interpreted in just about every way imaginable. From the supposed "smallest museum in the world" in Superior, Arizona, to the five-museum complex of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming, every kind of museum—and topic—has been organized and displayed.

Since *True West*'s first year in print in 1953, the editorial team has partnered with museums across the country to tell the West's story, and encourage readers to visit Western museums. In honor of this historic partnership this, the third annual *True West Ultimate Historic Travel Guide*, features select museums across the five Western regions of the United States. It is not intended to be a comprehensive list but, rather, an inspiration to visit a Western museum and experience the dynamic, enthralling history of the American West.

• TRUE WEST ULTIMATE HISTORIC TRAVEL GUIDE: MUSEUMS OF THE OLD WEST •

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The Pacific Coast

California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and Washington

California

The California Historical Society

When on a heritage tour of the San Francisco Bay area, visit the California Historical Society, where permanent and rotating exhibits provide an excellent introduction to the Golden State's complex history. Also schedule time to tour the Presidio of San Francisco, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Golden Gate Park and Mission San Francisco de Asís, the oldest structure in the city.

678 Mission St, San Francisco, CA 94105
415-357-1848 • *CaliforniaHistoricalSociety.org*

Autry National Center of the American West

The top Western museum in California, the Autry National Center of the American West, encompasses a broad history of the region with its permanent exhibits featuring rare and unusual Old West firearms in the George Gamble Firearms Gallery and entertaining displays on popular culture of film and television in the Ted and Marian Craver Imagination Gallery. After a tour of the Autry, don't miss a chance to visit Western historian Charles Lummis's Historic Southwest Museum, which is now owned and operated by the Autry.

Griffith Park, 4700 Western Heritage Wy
Los Angeles, CA 90027
323-667-2000 • *TheAutry.org*

Blackhawk Museum

One of the most impressive and well displayed collections of artifacts related to the history of the American West is located one hour east of San Francisco at the Blackhawk Museum's Spirit of the Old West. The museum displays many rare artifacts, including American Indian headdresses, weapons, tools and decorative arts, as well as a carefully curated collection of remarkable historical items related to American settlers—an impressive display of early firearms, outfits and cowboy memorabilia.

3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville, CA 94506
925-736-2280 • *BlackhawkMuseum.org*

California State Railroad Museum

More than 225,000 square feet of exhibit space houses 21 restored locomotives and cars, including the *Gov. Stanford* locomotive. After a tour, don't miss a chance to take a ride on the Sacramento Southern Railroad at the Old Sacramento depot. Tickets are purchased at the museum and either the *Granite Rock No. 10* steam locomotive or one of the vintage diesel locomotives from the museum's collection will pull the excursion train.

125 I St, Sacramento, CA 95814
916-323-9280 • *CaliforniaRailroad.museum*

Columbia State Historic Park

The Gold Rush-era park and historic district have been preserved with shops, restaurants and two historic hotels. Visitors have a chance to "time-travel" to the 1850s, when a billion dollars' worth of gold was mined in the area. Tourists

NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM
CARSON CITY, NV
– COURTESY TRAVELNEVADA

SACAJAWEA INTERPRETIVE, CULTURAL AND EDUCATION CENTER/SALMON, ID
– COURTESY IDAHO DEPT. OF TOURISM –

experience a bygone era by watching proprietors in period clothing conduct business in the style of yesterday. There are opportunities to ride a 100-year-old stagecoach, pan for gold and explore the real working businesses of Columbia.

11255 Jackson St, Columbia, CA 95310
209-588-9128 • *Parks.CA.gov*

Museum of Western Film History

Open since 2006, the museum is the nation's finest dedicated to the history and popular culture of Western films. Visitors will enjoy an outstanding collection of Western cinema memorabilia, much of it focused on the 400 films and 1,000-plus commercials filmed in Inyo County's picturesque Sierra Nevada landscape. In addition to events held throughout the year, the museum hosts the internationally acclaimed Lone Pine Film Festival every October.

701 S Main St, Lone Pine, CA 93545
760-876-9909
MuseumOfWesternFilmHistory.org

Idaho

Idaho State Museum

The Idaho State Historical Society's flagship museum reopened after major renovations in 2017, with exciting interactive displays such as "Spirit of the Land and Its People." Exhibits explain how Idaho's diverse cultures have adapted to the state's land and geography. Exhibits also hosts educational programs throughout the year, with special spaces designed for adults and children. After a tour, make time to visit the nearby Idaho State Capitol and its grounds and gardens.

610 Julia Davis Dr, Boise, ID 83702
208-334-2120 • *History.Idaho.gov*

Appaloosa Museum

Located in Palouse country, the historic heart and home of the Appaloosa horse, the unique museum is dedicated to preserving the history of the breed and its relationship with the Nez Perce people. Exhibitions detail the history of the Appaloosa, the flight of the Nez Perce from Oregon to Montana in 1877 and the importance of the horse to Indian culture.

2720 W Pullman Rd, Moscow, ID 83843
208-882-5578 • *AppaloosaMuseum.com*

Basque Museum & Cultural Center

Situated in the Basque district of Boise, the museum and cultural center preserves and promotes Idaho's rich Basque history and culture. Don't miss insightful exhibitions including "An Enduring Culture: The Basques Past & Present" and "Artzainak: A Life of Solitude & Hard Work" before touring the historic Cyrus Jacobs-Uberuaga House.

611 W Grove St. Boise, ID 83702
208-343-2671 • *BasqueMuseum.eus*

National Oregon / California Trail Center

Step back into the 1850s for an immersive Overland Trail living history program at the National Oregon/California Trail Center. Costumed docents and live actors lead this interpretive experience. Visitors will enjoy touring an Old West mercantile and gun shop, taking a covered wagon train adventure and experiencing an evening wagon train program at the Clover Creek Encampment.

320 N 4th St, Montpelier, ID 83254
866-847-3800 • *OregonTrailCenter.org*

Sacajawea Interpretive, Cultural and Education Center

One of the only museums in the country dedicated to memorializing the life of an American Indian woman, the center's exhibits interpret the natural and cultural history of the Salmon and Lemhi river valleys, the influence of Lewis and Clark Expedition and Sacajawea and her people, the Agai'dika Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

2700 Main St, Salmon, ID 83467
208-756-1188 • *SacajaweaCenter.org*

Nevada

Nevada Historical Society, Reno

The state's oldest cultural institution is home to the American Gaming Archives, a collection of gambling manufacturers' equipment, research materials and ephemera. The Reno Gallery celebrates many of the city's iconic moments, characters, institutions and structures. The Dat-So-La-Lee collection features a variety of

NEVADA STATE MUSEEUM
LAS VEGAS, NV

work from the storied basket weaver. The society's research library is a resource for casual history buffs and scholars alike.

1650 N Virginia St, Reno, NV 89503
775-688-1190 • *NVCulture.org*

Nevada Museum of Art

Founded in 1931, the museum is one of the oldest cultural institutions in the Silver State. The permanent collection is exhibited in four themed areas: the Robert S. and Dorothy J. Keyser Art of the Greater West Collection, the Carol Franc Buck Altered Landscape Photography Collection, the Contemporary Art Collection and the E. L. Wiegand Work Ethic in American Art Collection. The museum also hosts special, temporary art and artisan exhibitions, from the recent "Georgia O'Keeffe: Living Modern" to the current "Treasures from the Robert Lee Collection Decorative Arms," which showcases artistic embellishments on medieval to modern firearms from the United States, United Kingdom and Europe.

160 W Liberty St, Reno, NV 89501
775-329-3333 • *NevadaArt.org*

Nevada State Museum, Carson City

Housed in the former U.S. Mint, the museum tells the state's history from prehistoric to modern times. The Natural History section features animals—from mammoth bones found on the Black Rock Desert to an ichthyosaur, which swam the waters of ancient Lake Lahontan. The "Under One Sky" exhibit tells the story of Nevada's first inhabitants and Coin Press 1 operates to celebrate the building's 150-year history.

600 N Carson St, Carson City, NV 89701
775-687-4810 • *NVCulture.org*

Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas

Located on the beautiful Springs Preserve, the museum contains 13,000 square feet of permanent exhibit space and brings the history of Las Vegas to life. The "Showgirl Wall" exhibit features spectacular costumes once worn in iconic stage shows on The Strip. Military displays celebrate the battleship *USS Nevada* and other exhibits detail Nevada's infamous characters from Howard Hughes to the Rat Pack.

309 S Valley View Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89107
702-486-5205 • *NVCulture.org*

Nevada State Railroad Museum

No other museum in the world features two fully operational and restored steam locomotives from 1875. This museum showcases the narrow-gauge *Glenbrook* and standard-gauge *Inyo*. The collection also features the historic McKeen Motor Car, a National Historic Landmark; and Coach 17, the only surviving railcar that was present at the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad and the driving of the Golden Spike at Promontory Summit, Utah, in 1869.

2180 S Carson St, Carson City, NV 89701
775-687-6953 • *NVCulture.org*

East Ely Railroad Depot Museum

The museum commemorates the era when the Nevada Northern Railway was in full operation for the copper mining camps of eastern Nevada. The depot remains virtually untouched since the end of railroad freight operations, offering a glimpse into the past. The museum works in conjunction with the Nevada Northern Railway, which operates rolling stock from the railroad's heyday.

1100 Ave A, Ely, NV 89301
775-289-1663
ElyRailroadmuseum.org

Northeastern Nevada Museum

Original art by Will James is reason enough to visit this museum, but add to that collection the seasonal exhibitions of cowboy gear, wildlife and pioneer items and it's a well-rounded place. The Bob Chow Collection showcases a unique exhibition of firearms that were popular during the settlement of the West in the 19th century.

1515 Idaho St, Elko, NV 89801
775-738-3418 • *MuseumElko.org*

Oregon

Oregon Historical Society Museum

Start your tour of the Beaver State's flagship museum in the 7,000-square-foot permanent exhibition "Experience Oregon." Discover the connections between the past and present and the historic interconnection between land, water and home in Oregon at the very interactive and educational "Across Time" stations strategically placed throughout the exhibit. Visitors will enjoy seeing and learning about the large number of artifacts from across the state's geography and history on display—some on exhibit for the first time.

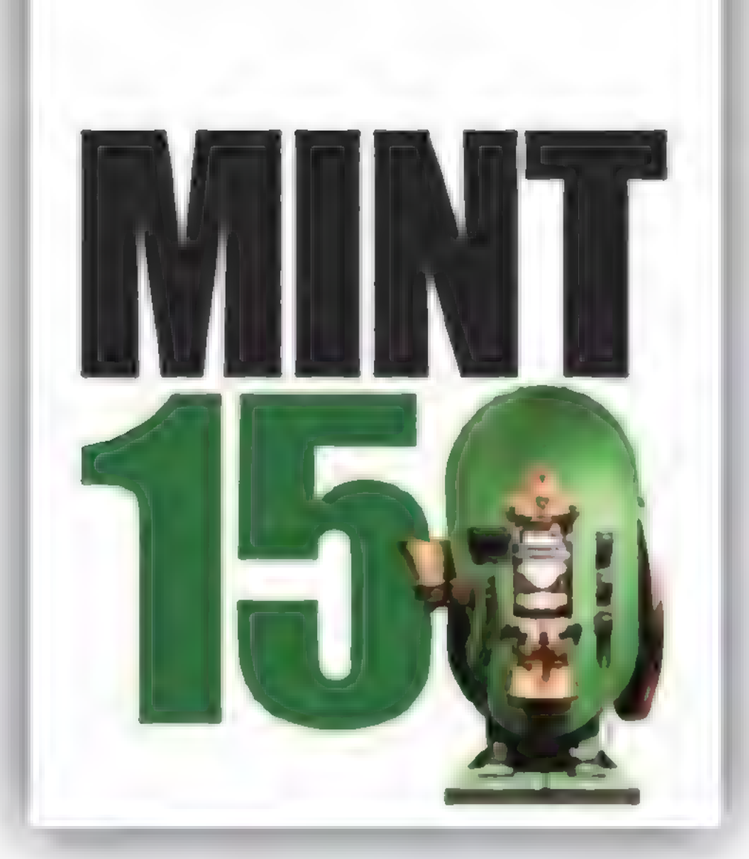
1200 SW Park Ave , Portland, OR 97205
503-222-1741 • *OHS.org*

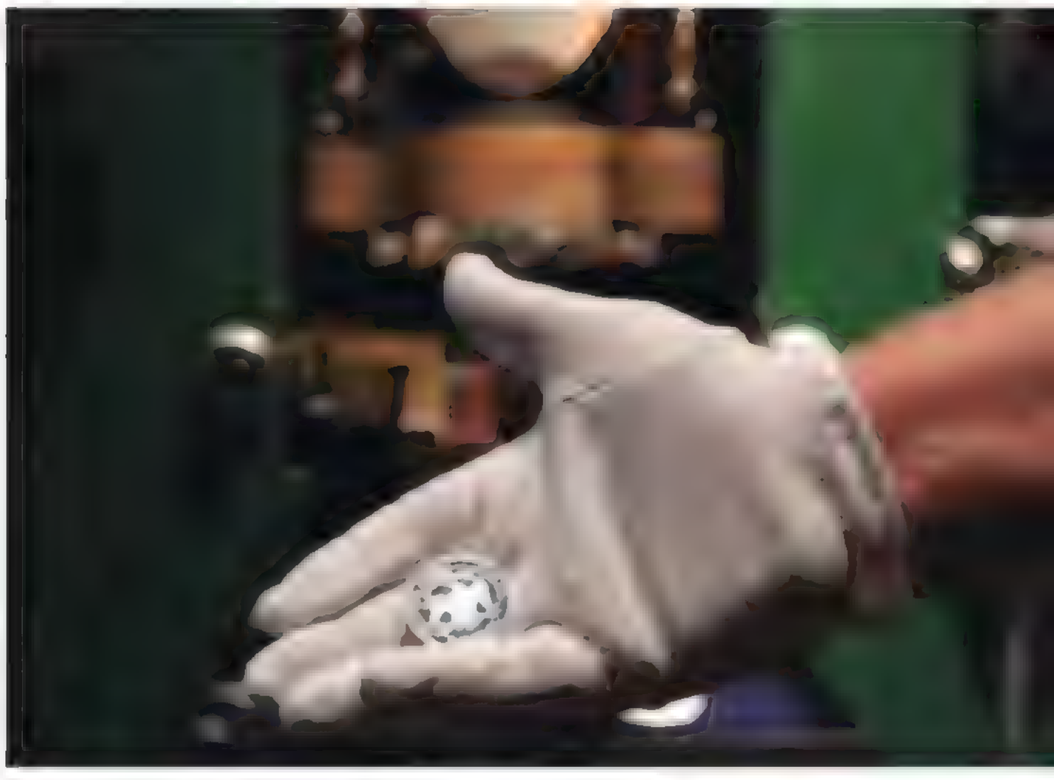
Columbia Gorge Discovery Center & Museum

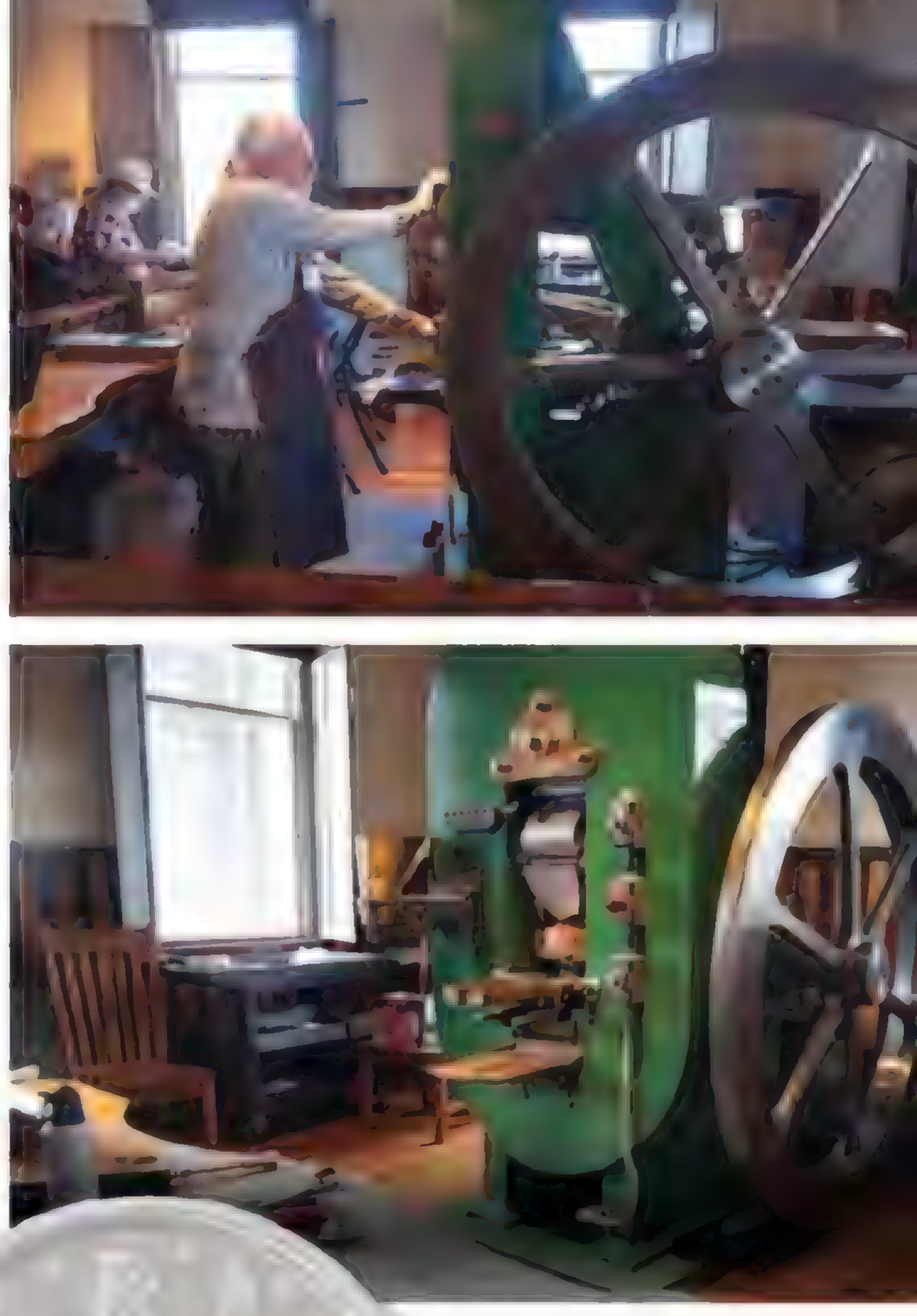
The museum is dedicated to the natural and cultural history of the Columbia River Gorge Ice Age Missoula Floods, the geology of the Columbia Gorge, American Indian life, early explorers and the Oregon Trail. One exhibit shows a wagon, with wheels removed, on a raft in the Columbia River, readying for the final leg of the Oregon Trail. While in the historic river town, don't miss visiting the historic Fort Dalles Museum and Anderson Homestead.

5000 Discovery Dr, The Dalles, OR 97058
541-296-8600 • *GorgeDiscovery.org*

COLUMBIA GORGE DISCOVERY CENTER & MUSEUM
THE DALLES, OR







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YAKIMA VALLEY MUSEUM
YAKIMA, WA

High Desert Museum

The 100,000-square-foot museum founded in 1982, is 135 acres of animals, exhibits and natural and culture history of the Northwest's high desert. Generations of all ages will enjoy the closeup view of native wildlife, stories of early Oregon from docents dressed as historic characters and an authentic 1904 homestead and sawmill.

59800 US-97, Bend, OR 97702
541-382-4754 • *HighDesertMuseum.org*

Columbia River Maritime Museum

Astoria's internationally renowned museum is on the banks of the Columbia River, just a few short miles from the legendary Columbia River Bar—one of the most dangerous passages in the world. The museum recounts for visitors the dramatic history of exploration, sailing, trade, naval and maritime shipping on the Columbia River and in the Pacific Northwest. Don't miss a tour of the lightship *Columbia* or the museum's exhibits "Crossing the Bar: Perilous Passage," "Mapping the Pacific Coast" and "*USS Shark* Cannon," which displays two cannons from the 1846 wreck that were recently discovered and restored.

1792 Marine Dr, Astoria, OR 97103
503-325-2323 • *CRMM.org*

Tamástslikt Cultural Institute

Visitors to the institute, located in the historic town of Pendleton, will be immersed in the history, culture and hospitality of the Native people who have lived in the Northwest region for more than 10 millennia. Learn about the storied past, present and future of the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla tribes through

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501 E Allen St - Tombstone

interactive exhibitions, special annual events and a dynamic Living Culture Village. A great time to visit is in mid-September during the internationally renowned Pendleton Round-Up!

47106 Wildhorse Blvd
Pendleton, OR 97801
541-429-7700 • *Tamastslikt.org*

Washington

Washington State History Museum

Start a tour in the Great Hall of Washington History and walk through time from the state's earliest American Indian history to the present, including the era of the fur trade, pioneer settlement, statehood and industrialization. Don't miss the exhibit that explains how the region's geology affected local development and the exhibit "Washington: My Home," which offers an insightful look at the multilayered contribution of immigrants and immigration to the state.

1911 Pacific Ave, Tacoma, WA 98402
253-272-3500 • *WashingtonHistory.org*

Clymer Museum and Gallery

The museum is dedicated to collecting, preserving, researching and interpreting the art and life of John Ford Clymer, his contemporaries and the preceding and ensuing generations of artists whose art depicts and focuses on the culture, life and country of Clymer's America. In addition to "The John Clymer Permanent Collection" exhibit, the museum hosts multiple temporary art exhibits.

416 N Pearl St, Ellensburg, WA 98926
509-962-6416 • *ClymerMuseum.org*

Museum of History & Industry

This museum is located in the always-popular Seattle Center museum and entertainment district, which includes the Space Needle. Start a tour with the "True Northwest: The Seattle Journey" exhibition, which walks the visitor through local history from the earliest Native cultures to the city's present role as an international crossroads of enterprise, technology and culture.

860 Terry Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109
206-324-1126 • *MOHAI.org*

Tacoma Art Museum

Founded in 1935, this museum is one of Washington state's most important centers of Northwest art curation, preservation, exhibition and education. The museum is well known for its Northwest Perspective Series of exhibitions and catalogues, as well as its rotating exhibits, which are either on tour or curated from the museum's vast permanent collection.

1701 Pacific Ave, Tacoma, WA 98402
253-272-4258 • *TacomaArtMuseum.org*

Yakima Valley Museum

Eighteen miles from Toppenish, this museum offers a look at artifacts from early life in the region. Enter a post-contact tipi and the Mattoon family cabin, built in 1869. The Mattons left everything behind in the 1840s to cross the plains seeking a new life in the West.

2105 Tieton Dr, Yakima, WA 98902
509-248-0747 • *YakimaValleyMuseum.org*

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SPIRIT OF THE WEST: SCOTTSDALE'S MUSEUM OF THE WEST
SCOTTSDALE, AZ

COURTESY SMOW -

The Desert Southwest

Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas

Arizona

Arizona Historical Society

The flagship of Arizona's historical society is anchored by its research center and vast collection, which is interpreted and displayed in interactive exhibits on Arizona history. The museum is adjacent to the University of Arizona and conveniently located within walking distance of the Arizona State Museum, and its rich archaeological collection.

140 N Stone Ave, Tucson, AZ 85701
520-770-1473 • *ArizonaHistoricalSociety.org*

Heard Museum

Ninety years after its founding by Dwight and Maie Bartlett Heard, the internationally acclaimed Heard continues to champion American Indian arts and American Indians of yesterday, today and tomorrow. Visitors will be enthralled with the Heard's highly educational permanent displays and its changing exhibits of art, history and Native cultural material and artisanship.

2301 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004
602-252-8840 • *Heard.org*

Museum of Northern Arizona

One of Arizona's—and the American Southwest's—best museums dedicated to telling the interconnective story between the indigenous people and the geologic and natural history of the region offers educational programs, interactive exhibits and live demonstrations. Informative docents and workshops make the museum a community crossroads for locals as well as visitors from around the world.

3101 N Fort Valley Rd, Flagstaff, AZ 86001
928-774-5213 • *MusNAZ.org*

Sharlot Hall Museum

The leading living history center of Arizona history in central Arizona, Sharlot Hall Museum has on its grounds one of finest collections of 19th-century Arizona buildings, including the Territory's first governor's residence, a log cabin restored to its original look. While in town, don't miss a tour of the Smoki Museum, which showcases American Indian art and culture in a pueblo-style building, and the Phippen Museum, one of the top Western art collections in the state.

415 W Gurley St, Prescott, AZ 86001
928-774-5213 • *SharlotHallMuseum.org*

SHARLOT HALL MUSEUM
PRESCOTT, AZ

Spirit of the West: Scottsdale's Museum of the West

One the of West's newest museums is dedicated to the region's history, culture and art. Its curators want visitors to "see the West from a whole new perspective." The museum interprets Western and American Indian history through art, artifacts and living cultures. Permanent exhibits include the "Abe Hays Spirit of the West Collection," "Of Spirit and Flame: John Coleman Bronzes from the Collection of Frankie and Howard Alper" and "Courage and Crossroads: A Visual Journey through the Early American West."

3830 N Marshall Way, Scottsdale, AZ 85251
480-686-9539 • *ScottsdaleMuseumWest.org*

TRUE WEST ULTIMATE HISTORIC TRAVEL GUIDE: MUSEUMS OF THE OLD WEST

TRUE WEST ULTIMATE HISTORIC TRAVEL GUIDE

New Mexico

New Mexico History Museum

Opened in 2009, the museum is the newest addition to the campus, which includes the Palace of the Governors, the Palace Press, the Portal Native American Artisans Program, the Fray Angélico Chávez History Library and the Photo Archives. The museum interprets the state's history from pre-Columbian civilizations up through the Santa Fe Trail era, while the Palace of Governors' exhibits focus on 400 years of history, beginning with the Spanish conquest.

113 Lincoln Ave, Santa Fe, NM 87501
505-476-5200 • *NMHistoryMuseum.org*

– COURTESY NEW MEXICO OFFICE OF TOURISM –

NEW MEXICO HISTORY MUSEUM
SANTA FE, NM

Albuquerque Museum

Dedicated to the art and history of the people of Albuquerque and the Rio Grande River Valley region, the museum's permanent exhibits include: "Common Ground: Art in New Mexico," "Only in Albuquerque" and "Courage and Compassion." Each year the curators provide visitors new, insightful temporary exhibits that explore and interpret New Mexico's diverse cultural history and peoples.

2000 Mountain Rd, NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104
505-243-7255 • *CABQ.gov*

– COURTESY PRESCOTT CVB –

El Rancho de las Golondrinas

A Southwestern living history center, El Rancho de las Golondrinas (Ranch of the Swallows) celebrates the legacy of New Mexico's land and its Hispano culture. Staff and docents dressed in period costume greet and educate visitors at the 200-acre historic rancho in a valley south of Santa Fe. Many of the buildings on the campus are original and date to the 1700s.

334 Los Pinos Rd, Santa Fe, NM 87507
505-471-2261 • *Golondrinas.org*

Kit Carson Home & Museum

Built in 1825, the historic adobe home of Kit Carson and his third wife, Maria Josefa Jaramillo, is preserved and maintained as a museum highlighting the Western frontier trapper, trailblazer, trader and soldier. A centerpiece of the museum's collection is Carson's Civil War saber, acquired at auction in 2013.

113 Kit Carson Rd, Taos, NM 87571
575-758-4082 • *KitCarsonMuseum.org*

New Mexico Farm & Ranch Museum

This living history center dedicated to the history and heritage of farming and ranching in New Mexico offers tours and exhibits at the dairy barn, greenhouse and gardens and the Antique Equipment Park, featuring a collection of farm implements. Visitors can also watch forging at the blacksmith shop and sewing, spinning and weaving crafts at the Bruce King Building.

4100 Dripping Springs Rd
Las Cruces, NM 88011
575-522-4100
NMFarmAndRanchMuseum.org

Oklahoma

Oklahoma History Center

Managed by the Oklahoma Historical Society, the center is an 18-acre complex with its centerpiece a 215,000-square-foot learning center that exhibits the Sooner State's geologic, cultural, settlement and development from the distant past to the present.

800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr, Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405-522-0765 • *OKHistory.org*

Cherokee Heritage Center

In association with the National Park Service, the center is the permanent home of a six-gallery exhibition that interprets the forced removal of the Cherokee people from their traditional lands to Oklahoma, originally known as the Indian Territory. Visitors should also take the self-guided tour of Adams Corner Rural Village, a living-history center of seven buildings that tells the story of the Cherokee community in the 1890s.

21192 S Keeler Dr, Park Hill, OK 74457
918-456-6007 • *Cherokee.org*

Chickasaw Cultural Center

A living history center dedicated to the Chickasaw people's cultural history and heritage connects visitors with the tribe's past, present and future. Learn about the Chickasaw culture through the center's exhibits, re-enactments, demonstrations and performances.

867 Cooper Memorial Dr, Sulphur, OK 73086
580-622-7130 • *ChickasawCulturalCenter.com*

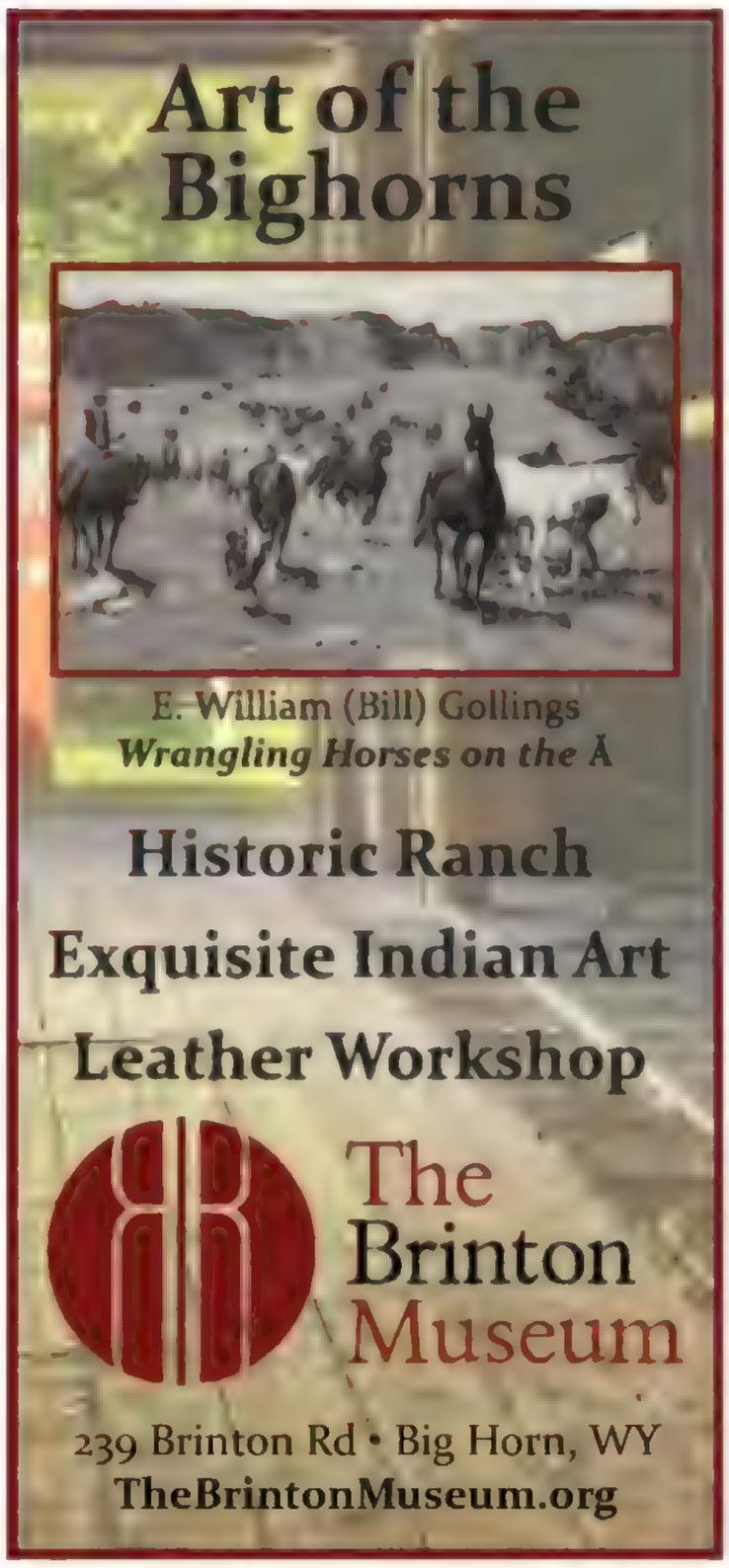
J.M. Davis Arms & Historical Museum, Claremore

All ages and generations will be fascinated with founder John Monroe Davis's vast collection of firearms (over 12,000!) and non-firearm artifacts, ranging from the Old West to regional and local history. Multimedia exhibits are located throughout the museum for an informative and entertaining experience.

330 N J.M. Davis Blvd, Claremont, OK 74017
918-341-5707 • *TheGunMuseum.org*

Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art

"Americans All!" and "Enduring Spirit: Native American Art" remain perennial highlights for visitors to the Gilcrease, which has 12,000



– COURTESY OKLAHOMA OFFICE OF TOURISM –

pieces of Western art in its collection. Founder Thomas Gilcrease's passion for the people, culture, history and art of the region led him to build the single most comprehensive Western Americana collection in the world.

1400 N Gilcrease Museum Rd
Tulsa, OK 74127
918-596-2700 • *Gilcrease.org*

Texas

Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum

A tour of the Lone Star State's capital city would not be complete without a visit to this museum and its three floors of exhibits on Texan history, culture and people. Start with "Becoming Texas" on the first floor and work your way upstairs from 16,000 years ago to the present.

1800 Congress Ave, Austin, TX 78701
512-936-8746 • *TheStoryOfTexas.com*

Buffalo Soldiers National Museum

Founded in 2000, the only museum dedicated to honoring the black soldiers in American history—from the American Revolution to today—has continued to excel, particularly after moving to its new location. Each Saturday the museum presents the "Day in the Life of a Buffalo Soldier" program, which it also takes into schools.

3816 Caroline St, Houston, TX 77004
713-942-8920 • *BuffaloSoldierMuseum.com*

Kenedy Ranch Museum

The contributions of three generations of the Kenedy family to the development of South Texas and Texas Gulf Coast are honored at this museum. Don't miss the "Vaqueros" exhibit on the Kenedeños, "the people of the ranch." The legacy of Mifflin Kenedy is also richly told in the wall murals and other exhibits.

200 E La Parra Ave, Sarita, TX 78385
361-294-5751 • *Kenedy.org*

Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum

The exhibits at this museum in Canyon, Texas, comprehensively walk the visitor through 14,000 years of history, including the key role of the Texas longhorn to the development of the region known worldwide for its cowboy and cattle culture.

2503 4th Ave, Canyon, TX 79015
806-651-2244 • *PanhandlePlains.org*

– COURTESY MUSEUM OF BIG BEND –

Museum of the Big Bend

Located on the Sul Ross State University campus, the museum is dedicated to the history and culture of Southern Texas and Northern Mexico regions that intersect in the Big Bend region of the Rio Grande. Visitors will enjoy informative exhibitions such as "Before Texas was TEXAS" and "Big Bend Legacy."

400 N Harrison St
Alpine, TX 79830
432-837-8730
MuseumOfTheBigBend.com

Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum

Situated on the banks of the legendary Brazos River, the museum is sponsored by the City of Waco and sanctioned by the State of Texas. Visitors will discover the inspiring history of the Texas Rangers through exhibitions that explore their development and role, from their founding in 1823 to the present.

100 Texas Ranger Trail, Waco, TX 76706
254-750-8631 • *TexasRanger.org*

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HISTORY COLORADO CENTER
DENVER, CO

Great Basin and Rocky Mountains

Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming

Colorado

History Colorado Center

Located in Denver's Golden Triangle Creative District, History Colorado Center is the Rocky Mountain state's beautiful flagship museum. The interactive exhibits on state geological, natural and cultural history are housed in a spacious, beautifully designed facility that can be enjoyed by all ages. Enjoy educational programs, lecture series and the museum's unique program, Tours & Treks, which takes participants out into the field with Colorado experts.

1200 N Broadway, Denver, CO 80203
303-447-8679 • *HistoryColorado.org*

A.R. Mitchell Museum

Trinidad still feels like an Old West town, so there's no better place than the A.R. Mitchell Museum to learn about hometown hero Arthur Roy Mitchell (1889-1977), one of the golden era of pulp magazines' top illustrators, who left New York in the 1940s to come home and paint and teach art. One of the exhibits includes the famed artist's studio.

150 E Main St, Trinidad, CO 81082
719-846-4224
ARMitchellMuseum.org

Colorado Railroad Museum

In a state beloved by historic railroad aficionados, the museum is dedicated to the heritage of railways in the Rocky Mountain State. Railfans will love the narrow- and standard-gauge rolling stock and locomotive (steam and diesel) collection in the 15-acre railyard, the roundhouse restoration facility and the Depot Museum, housed in an 1880s style station. Schedule time to attend a lecture series or behind-the-scenes tour.

17155 W 44th Ave, Golden, CO 80403
303-279-4591 • *ColoradoRailroadMuseum.org*

"SHOOTERS" BY A.R MITCHELL COURTESY A.R. MITCHELL MUSEUM -

A.R. MITCHELL MUSEUM
TRINIDAD, CO

Cripple Creek District Museum

The historic museum campus is home to the 1890s Midland Terminal Railway Depot, Colorado Trading & Transfer building, the oldest wooden commercial structure in Cripple Creek, the early 1900s Assay Office, two vintage miners' cabins (1892 and 1900), one of which was once home to the notorious prostitute, French Blanche.

TRUE WEST
ULTIMATE HISTORIC TRAVEL GUIDE

While in town don't miss visiting the Cripple Creek Jail Museum, Old Homestead House Museum, Victor Lowell Thomas Museum and Victor's Gold Camp Ag & Mining Museum.

510 Bennett Dr, Cripple Creek, CO 80813
719-689-9540 • *CrippleCreekMuseum.com*

National Mining Museum & Hall of Fame

The high elevation here is equaled by the museum's collections of mining equipment, rare rocks and minerals, and even a replica of a mine tunnel. After a tour of the museum, take a thrilling ride on the local historic train, the Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad.

120 W 9th St, Leadville, CO 80461
719-486-1239 • *MiningHallOfFame.org*

Montana

Montana Historical Society Museum

The flagship state museum tells the story of the Big Sky State through the history of the land and the people who have made Montana their home. Enjoy exhibits of art and historical, archaeological and ethnological artifacts which assist in interpreting and telling Montana's history. Schedule extra time to take the self-guided tour of the State Capitol.

225 N Roberts S, Helena, MT 59620
406-444-2694 • *MHS.MT.gov*

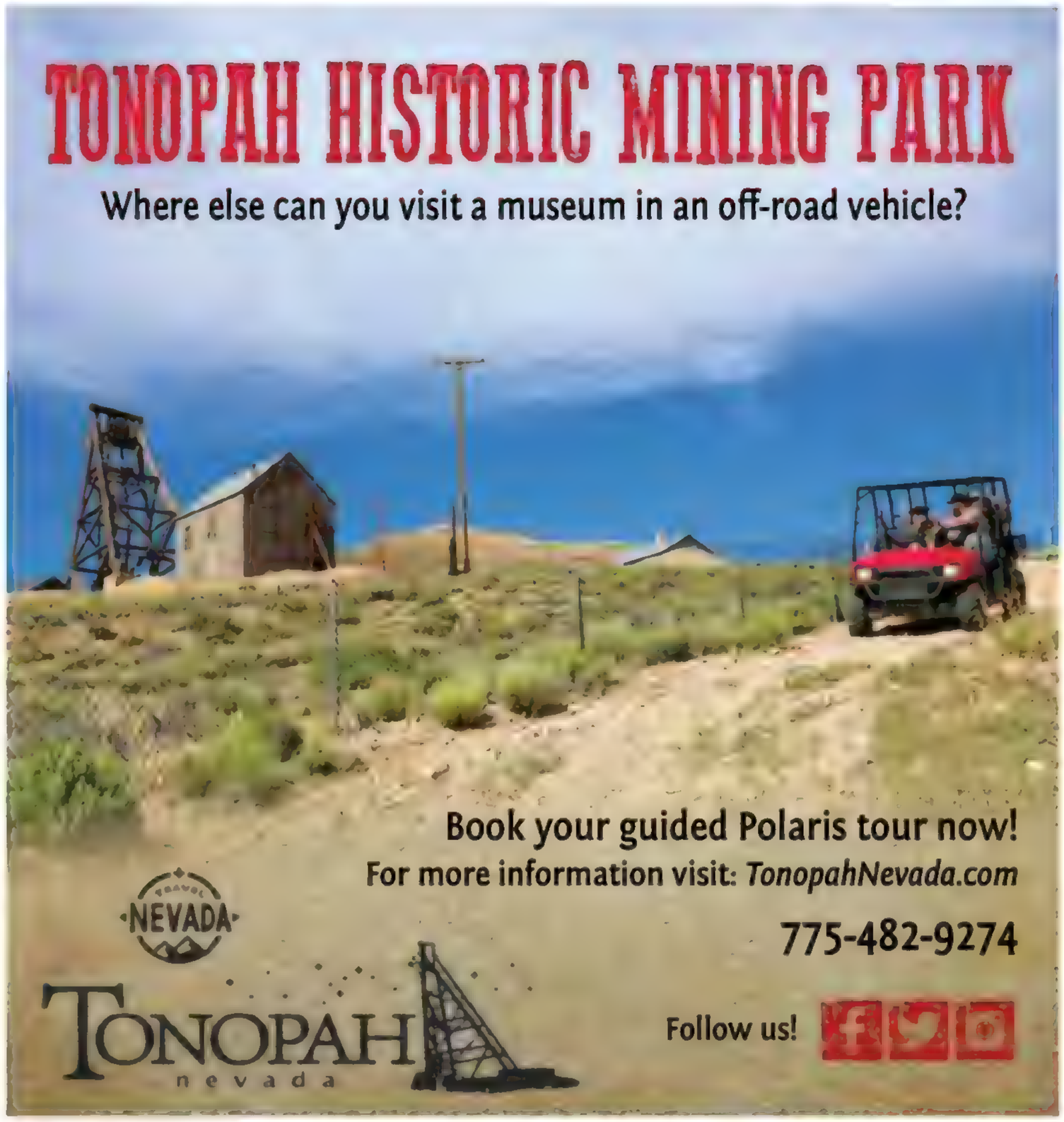
CM Russell Museum

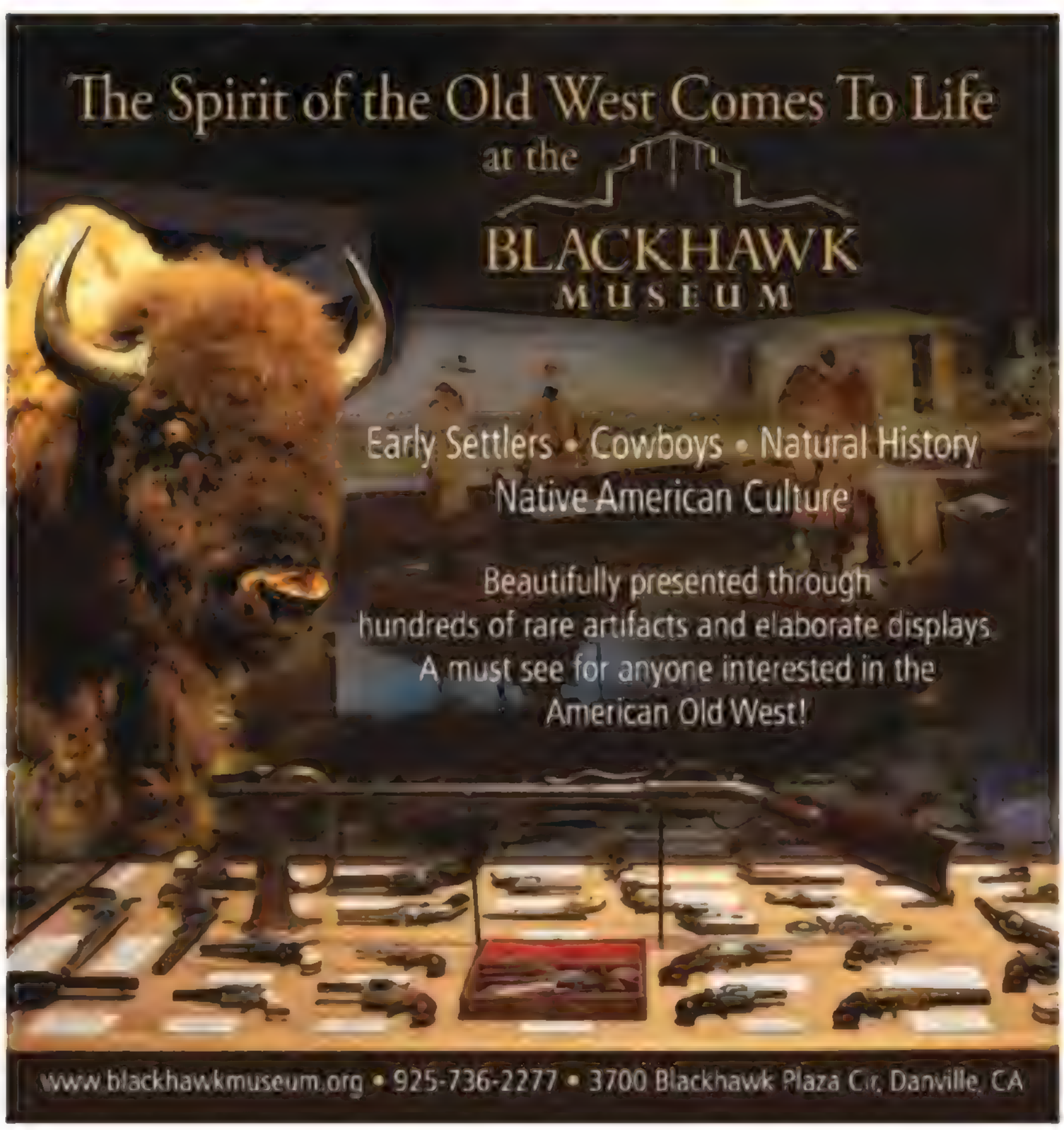
Few artists' work remain as iconic as Charles M. Russell's, and what better place to honor him than his adopted hometown, where he lived, painted and sculpted? The complex includes Russell's home and log studio, but the highlights are the roughly 2,000 pieces by Russell, some of his personal belongings and the permanent exhibit "The Bison: American Icon, Heart of Plains Indian Culture."

400 13th St N, Great Falls, MT 59401
406-727-8787 • *CMRussell.org*

Conrad Mansion

The 1895 Conrad Family estate with its 13,000-square-foot shingle-style mansion was donated to the City of Kalispell in 1974 and opened as a totally self-supporting

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hundreds of rare artifacts and elaborate displays
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American Old West!
www.blackhawkmuseum.org • 925-736-2277 • 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Cir, Danville, CA

museum in 1976. The three-story 19th-century home built by Montana entrepreneur Charles E. Conrad is on the National Register of Historic Places. It has a Norman period interior with 26 rooms, including three bathrooms and eight sandstone fireplaces.

330 Woodland Ave, Kalispell, MT 59901
406-755-2166 • *ConradMansion.com*

Custer Battlefield Museum

A visit to Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument would not be complete without a tour of the neighboring educational center in Gerryowen. Visitors are greeted by The Tomb of the United States Unknown Soldier (his body was uncovered during road construction in 1926), flanked by busts of George Armstrong

ULTIMATE HISTORIC TRAVEL GUIDE

CM RUSSELL MUSEUM
GREAT FALLS, MT

Custer and Sitting Bull. The museum, at the site of Sitting Bull's camp, houses a large collection of rare Little Big Horn archives and material.

I-90, Exit 514, Frontage Rd, Town Hall
Gerryowen, MT 59031
406-638-1876 • *CusterMuseum.org*

World Museum of Mining

With the Orphan Girl Mine's 100-foot-tall headframes and Hoist House as the museum's centerpiece, visitors will be immersed in the history of the mine, literally and figuratively. The museum is divided into six major sections: the Orphan Girl, The Mine Yard, the Underground Exhibit, Hell Roarin' Gulch, a re-created 1890s town, the memorial, Remembering a Fallen Miner and the Mineral Room. Sign up ahead of time for either the 65-foot or 100-foot level underground mine tour.

155 Museum Way, Butte, MT 59701
406-723-7211 • *MiningMuseum.org*

Clymer

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416 N. PEARL ST., ELLENSBURG, WA 98926 • (509) 962-6416

CLYMERMUSEUM.ORG

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BILLY THE KID MUSEUM

FORT SUMNER, NEW MEXICO

The largest privately owned Museum in the Southwest (20,000 sq. ft.) The Museum was established in October of 1952 and has been a family business for 65+ years.

For more information please contact
Tim Sweet 575-355-2380
To view more info on the Museum go to:
BillyTheKidMuseumFortSumner.com

COURTESY UTAH OFFICE OF TOURISM

Utah

Frontier Homestead State Park Museum

Discover firsthand the 19th-century pioneer history of Cedar City, Iron County, and southwest Utah through hands-on activities and view an impressive horse-drawn wagon collection, historic structures, Indian heritage items, an antique sawmill and a replica blast furnace. The "Native Heritage Exhibit," a new area of the museum, allows visitors to experience how Indian peoples lived in Iron County prior to American settlement. And students can be archaeologists for the day, learning basic techniques and methods of the archaeological process. Walk through the Fremont pit house and the Paiute wikiups, visit a traditional shade shelter and Indian garden, all set among local flora and replica prehistoric-Indian village mounds.

635 N Main St, Cedar City, UT 84721
435-586-9290 • *FrontierHomestead.org*

John Wesley Powell River History Museum

A century and a half ago, John Wesley Powell led his first expedition down the Green-Colorado River. The museum interprets the exploration and the stories of the river explorers. The museum collects objects that explain the history of the Colorado Plateau and human interaction with watersheds and rivers in the region, with an emphasis on the Green, Colorado, and San Juan rivers.

1765 Main St, Green River, UT 84525
435-564-3427 • *JohnWesleyPowell.com*

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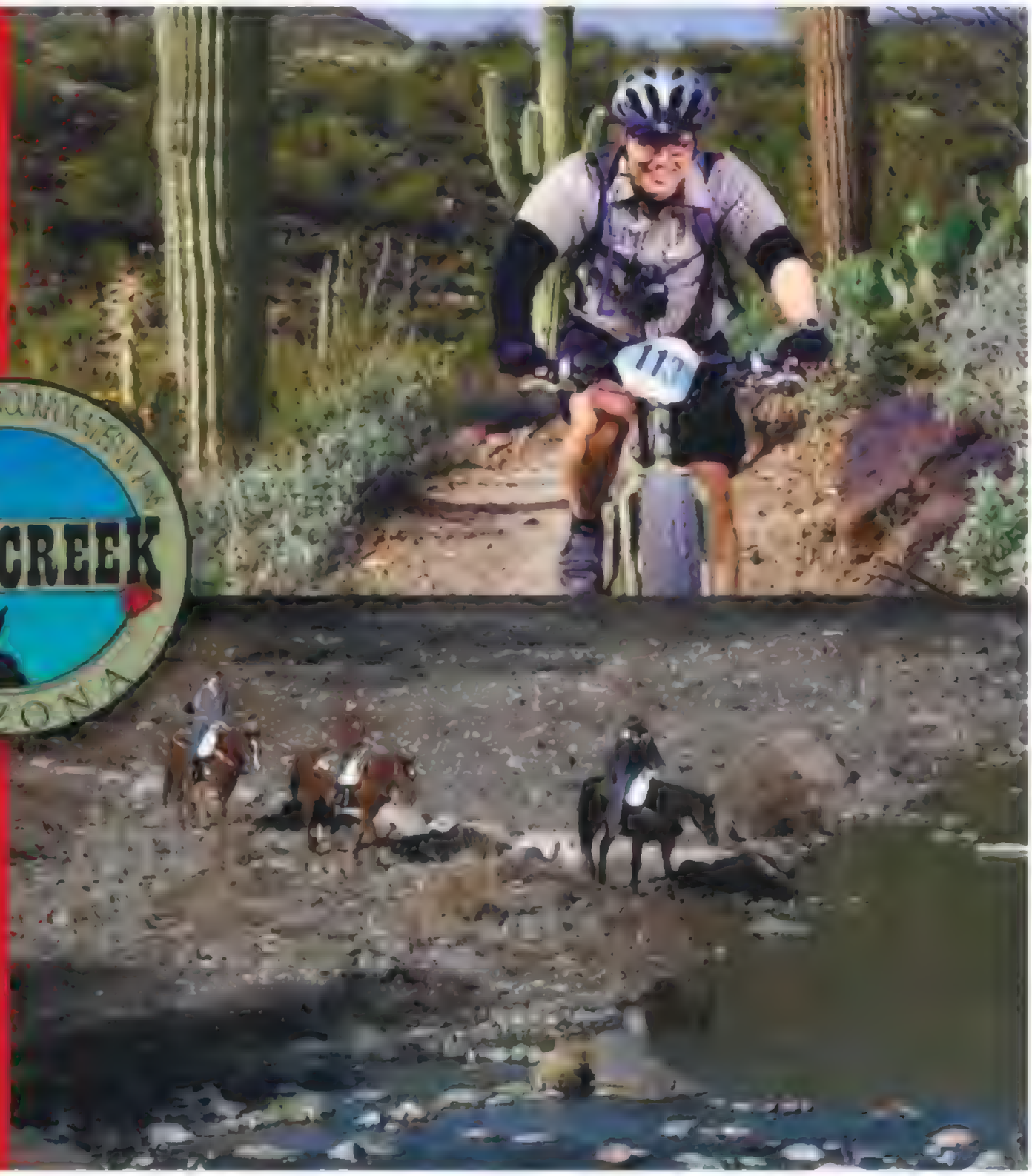

TRUE WEST ULTIMATE HISTORIC TRAVEL GUIDE MUSEUMS OF THE OLD WEST

TRUE WEST ULTIMATE HISTORIC TRAVEL GUIDE

Maynard Dixon Living History Museum

Southern Utah's high mesa country with its endless vistas and dramatic skies attracted Western artists Maynard and Edith Hamlin Dixon to build a home in Mount Carmel in the 1930s. Visitors can walk the same trails that inspired some of Maynard's iconic art. Tours, self-guided or with a docent, are available March 15 to November 15. The living history center has a limited winter schedule with the power and water turned off. Docent-guided tours are $40 per person and must be scheduled in advance. All tours begin at the Thunderbird Foundation headquarters at the museum.

200 S State St, Mount Carmel, UT 84755
435-648-2652 • *ThunderbirdFoundation.com*

Natural History Museum of Utah

Since 1969, when the Natural History Museum of Utah opened its visionary doors to the public, it has been enchanting and educating visitors on the natural, geologic and ethnological history of the Beehive State. Visitors are immersed in intriguing and educational exhibits including "Sky," "Native Voices," "Life," "Land," "First People" and "Great Salt Lake." The museum has the best collection of dinosaurs in the state outside of Vernal's Utah Field House of Natural History State Park Museum and Dinosaur National Monument.

301 Wakara Way, Salt Lake City, UT 84108
801-581-6927 • *NHMU.Utah.edu*

Union Station Museum

The museum complex is home to the Utah State Railroad Museum, featuring the Eccles Rail Center, the Utah State Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, the Wattis-Dumke Model Train Exhibit, the John M. Browning Firearms Museum and the Browning-Kimball Classic Car Museum.

2501 Wall Ave, Ogden, UT 84401
801-629-8680 • *OgdenCity.com*

Wyoming

Wyoming State Museum

Wyoming's state capital is a city of museums, and the state museum should be at the top of every visitor's list. It's a leader as an educational, historical, and cultural institution, with the goal of collecting, preserving and interpreting artifacts that reflect the human and natural history of Wyoming and the Rocky Mountain West.

Barrett Building, 2301 Central Ave
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-7022 • *WYOMuseum.State.WY.us*

The Brinton Museum

The Forrest E. Mars, Jr. Building, which opened in 2015, features Western art by Karl Bodmer, Thomas Moran, Charles M. Russell, Frederic Remington and John Mix Stanley. Also in the collection is a war shirt that belonged to Two Leggings—a piece that was selected in 2016 as one of the top ten historic artifacts in Wyoming— plus a Blackfeet war chief's 1830s shirt and leggings, a Blackfeet grizzly bear shirt and a Lakota woman's beaded dress.

239 Brinton Rd, Big Horn, WY 82833
307-672-3133
TheBrintonMuseum.org

Buffalo Bill Center of the West

The July opening of the redesigned Cody Firearms Museum squarely places the BBCOW on our top museum list. Years in the making, the firearms museum still features its extensive collections of weapons, but offers new exhibits allowing visitors to see the guns and learn more about their designs and production. Outside of the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., the five-museum complex in Cody, Wyoming, stands singularly in the United States for the breadth and depth of its collections and exhibitions on the American West.

720 Sheridan Ave, Cody WY 82414
307-587-4771 • *CenterOfTheWest.com*

Jim Gatchell Museum

See a diverse variety of wagons, plus extensive artifact collections directly related to the war for the Powder River that involved Red Cloud and Colonel Henry B. Carrington. The wagons here are the real deal; one of them was even used for the filming of a river-crossing depicted at the National Historic Trail Interpretive Center down the road in Caspar.

100 Fort St, Buffalo, WY 82834
307-684-9331 • *JimGattchell.com*

Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site

On the National Register of Historic Places, the historic site has been restored for visitors to explore the 1872 hand-built stone building that held such famous convicts as Butch Cassidy, who was imprisoned here before he became the leader of the infamous Wild Bunch. Built first as a federal prison (1872-1890), it later became Wyoming's State Penitentiary (1890-1903) and 1,063 convicts (men and women) were sent to live in its cells for the crimes they had committed.

975 Snowy Range Rd
Laramie, WY 82070
307-745-3733 • *WYOParks.WYO.gov*

CODY FIREARMS MUSEUM BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST
CODY, WYOMING

COURTESY NORTHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DEFEAT OF JESSE JAMES DAYS, NORTHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NORTHFIELD, MN

Northern Prairie and Plains

Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota

Iowa

State Historical Museum of Iowa

Visitors will discover the rich and diverse history of Iowa in Smithsonian-style exhibits chronicling the natural, Native, cultural and settlement history of the prairie plains-river state.

600 E Locust St, Des Moines, IA 50319
515-281-5111 • *IowaCulture.gov*

The John Wayne Birthplace & Museum

Located in picturesque Madison County (home to the famous covered bridges), the museum preserves the Duke's childhood home and the new 6,100-square-foot exhibit space displays the largest John Wayne collection in the world.

205 S John Wayne Dr, Winterset, IA 50273
515-462-1044
JohnWayneBirthplace.museum

National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium

Part aquarium, part museum, part science center, this is where history and the legendary river come alive. It's great for all ages with lots of hands-on exhibits.

350 E Third St, Dubuque, IA 52001
800-226-3369 • *RiverMuseum.com*

Sioux City Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center

The center's permanent exhibits tell the story of the Corps of Discovery's time in the area, from late July to early September 1804, including the death and burial of Sgt. Charles Floyd, the only man to die on the expedition.

900 Larsen Park Rd, Sioux City, IA 51103
712-224-5242 • *SiouxCityLCIC.com*

Union Pacific Railroad Museum

The entire first floor is dedicated to the Transcontinental Railroad, but "Building America" isn't alone. Exhibits on "American Travels by Rail" and "The Lincoln Collection" are also worthwhile.

200 Pearl St, Council Bluffs, IA 51503
712 329-8307 • *UPRRMuseum.org*

Minnesota

Minnesota History Center

Explore Minnesota's extraordinary and diverse history through exhibits that feature authentic historical objects, hands-on experiences and multimedia presentations. After touring the museum, ask for directions to nearby Historic Fort Snelling, which is dedicated to telling Minnesota's frontier military history.

345 W Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55102
651-259-3000 • *MNHS.org*

Grand Portage National Monument

An exceptional living-history center within Grand Portage Indian Reservation, the monument is located in northeastern Minnesota's "Tip of the Arrowhead," about 150 miles northeast of Duluth, along the beautiful north shore of Lake Superior.

70 Mile Creek Rd, Grand Portage, MN 55605
218-475-0123 • *NPS.gov*

Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum

Enjoy learning the history of the Ingalls Family in Walnut Grove. The museum's collections are housed in a series of historic buildings, including an 1898 depot, a chapel, an onion-domed house, a dugout display, a little red schoolhouse, an early settler's home and a covered wagon display.

330 8th St, Walnut Grove, MN 56180
800-528-7280 • *WalnutGrove.org*

Northfield Historical Society

The 50-caliber Smith carbine used by Henry Wheeler against the James-Younger Gang during the 1876 bank robbery was on temporary display. This museum always is first-rate, and the annual Defeat of Jesse James Days is entertaining and accurate.

408 Division St S
Northfield, MN 55057
507-645-9268 • *NorthfieldHistory.org*

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD MUSEUM
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA

Snake River Fur Trading Post

Discover the cultural, global and economic story of the fur trade through exhibits, living history demonstrations, heritage trails, guided tours and a re-created fur post and Ojibwe camp.

12551 Voyageur Ln, Pine City, MN 55063
320-629-6356 • *MNHS.org*

North Dakota

North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum

The museum's motto is "history for everyone," and visitors who tour the center will discover in its four galleries the fascinating story of North Dakota through thousands of artifacts and specimens, high-tech displays and interactive exhibits. The museum is also home to the State Historical Society of North Dakota and the State Archives. Admission is free, every day.

612 E Boulevard Ave, Bismarck, ND 58505
701-328-2666 • *History.ND.gov*

HUTCHINSON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Experience the Wild West at HCHM!

Between 1868 and 1881, the Great Plains had become *the* destination for daring young men headed west to seek their fortunes. Buffalo hunting nearly wiped out the species in the western United States. Destruction of the buffalo relegated the Plains Indians, once masters of their domain – to life on the reservation.

The Indians didn't give up without a fight! **Hutchinson County was the site of the decisive battle that brought about the Red River war – which ended the Indians' domination of the Plains.**

The Hutchinson County Historical Museum features exhibits of the battles at Adobe Walls and other events of this transformative period in American history.

HCHM also displays the artifacts and tells the stories of early ranching and farming in the area as well as the story of the Borger Oil Boom in 1926 that altered the course of the Texas Panhandle economy.

HCHM
Hutchinson County Historical Museum

For more information visit
hutchinsoncountymuseum.org

The Museum is open
Tuesday-Friday 9 am to 5 pm
Saturday 1 pm to 4:30 pm
Free Admission, Kid-friendly

618 North Main Street
Borger, Texas 79007
806 • 273 • 0130

Comanche Chief Quanah Parker
The last survivor of the Battle of 1874, Chief Yellow Fish, his wife and Mrs. Billy Dixon at the Indian monument ceremony in 1941
Quanah near the time of his death in 1911

This ad is sponsored by the Friends of the Hutchinson County Historical Museum

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park

Established in 1907, this is the oldest state park in North Dakota. Begin at the visitors center, then tour the reconstructed fort, including Lt. Col. George Armstrong and Libbie Custer's home (1873-1876), and the On-A-Slant Mandan Indian Village, including six reconstructed earthlodges including a large council lodge.

4480 Ft Lincoln Rd, Mandan, ND 58554
701-667-6340 • *ParkRec.ND.gov*

Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center and Fort Mandan

The centerpiece of the park is the reconstructed Fort Mandan, a fully furnished, full-size replica of the fort in which the Lewis and Clark Expedition wintered in 1804-1805. Enjoy state-of-the-art exhibits, hundreds of period artifacts and talks by the informative docents who share the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in a dynamic, living history center.

2576 8th St SW, Washburn, ND 58577
701-462-8535 • *ParkRec.ND.gov*

National Buffalo Museum

Housed in a 6,000-square-foot rustic log building at Jamestown's Frontier Village, the museum's exhibits focus on the history of the American bison in Plains Indian tribal cultures, their near-extinction in the 19th century and the subsequent conservation and restoration of the United States' national mammal. Don't miss viewing the 25- to 30-head herd of buffalo on 200 acres of adjacent plains habitat.

500 17th St SE, Jamestown, ND 58401
800-807-1511 • *BuffaloMuseum.com*

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Named in honor of the 26th President, who developed his passion for Western land-conservation while living and ranching in the vicinity, the park is comprised of three separate areas of land. The North and South Units feature scenic drives, wildlife viewing, hiking,

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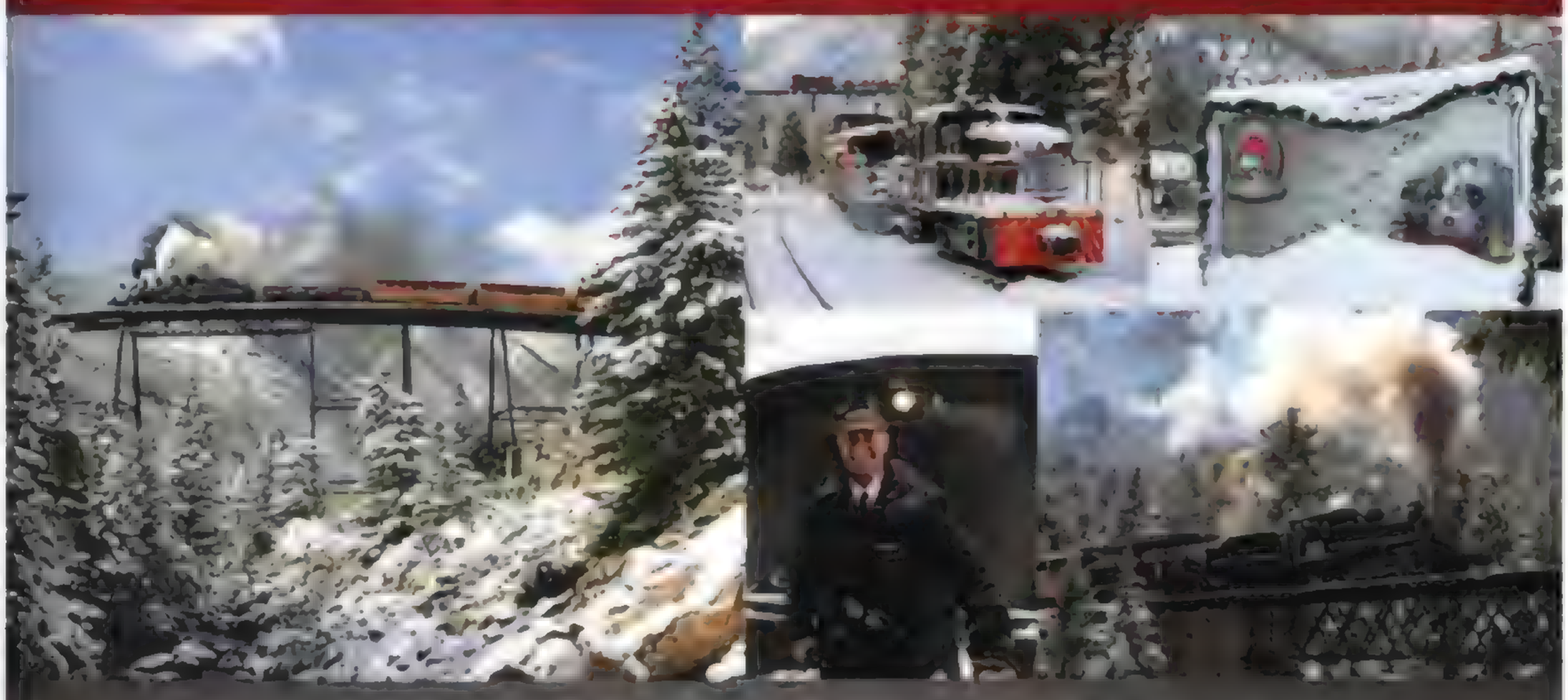

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visitors centers, ranger-led programs and much more. The undeveloped Elkhorn Ranch Unit preserves the site of Roosevelt's "home ranch" in a remote area along the Little Missouri River. A bonus to visiting TRNP is staying in neighboring Medora and touring its historic sites, including the Chateau de Mores State Historic Site.

315 Second Ave, Medora, ND 58645
701-623-4466 • *NPS.gov*

South Dakota

South Dakota State Historical Society Museum

The museum of the historical society promotes an understanding and appreciation of the state's rich and complex heritage through collections, exhibits, programs and living-history events that engage and inspire visitors to explore history's impact.

900 Governors Dr, Pierre, SD 57732
605-773-3458 • *History.SD.gov*

Adams Museum

Founded in 1930 by local pioneer businessman W.E. Adams, the Adams Museum is one of four museums, along with the Days of '76 Museum, Historic Adams House and Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center, managed by the nonprofit Deadwood History, Inc. The Adams' exhibits tell the story of Deadwood and the Black Hills, with many unique items in the collection on display, including Potato Creek Johnny's 7.346 troy-ounce gold nugget.

54 Sherman St, Deadwood, SD 57732
605-578-1714 • *DeadwoodHistory.com*

Black Hills Mining Museum

Located just south of Deadwood in the historic mining town of Lead, the museum is dedicated to preserving, promoting and educating the public about the rich mining heritage of South Dakota's Black Hills. The adjacent Homestake Mine operated for 126 years, closing in 2002.

323 W Main St, Lead, SD 57754
605-584-1605 • *BlackHillsMiningMuseum.com*

High Plains Western Heritage Center

Opened three decades ago, the center features a five-state regional museum with exhibits, collections, archives and live events that preserve and honor the Old West pioneers and American Indians of South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming and Montana.

825 Heritage Dr, Spearfish, SD 57783
605-642-9378 • *WesternHeritageCenter.com*

The Journey Museum and Learning Center

The museum preserves and educates the public about the heritage, cultures and environment of the Black Hills region. The state's story is told through four different exhibition areas and collections: American Indian culture, pioneer and settlement history, geology and paleontology and archaeology.

222 New York St
Rapid City, SD 57701
605-394-6923 • *JourneyMuseum.org*

– COURTESY SOUTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF TOURISM –

Southern Prairie and Plains

Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska

Arkansas

Historic Arkansas Museum

The award-winning living history museum is the state's primary interpreter of frontier Arkansas. Five historic Arkansas structures represent the state's frontier days from the 1820s to the 1850s. Permanent exhibits on the museum's campus include the "Knife Gallery," which tells the story of the Bowie knife, and "We Walk in Two Worlds: The Caddo, Osage and Quapaw in Arkansas."

200 E 3rd St, Little Rock, AR 72201
501-324-9351 • *HistoricArkansas.org*

Old State House Museum

Housed in the original state capitol, built between 1833 and 1836—when Arkansas was admitted to the Union—the museum's excellent exhibits on the state's political history include "Pillars of Power," "On the Stump: Arkansas Political History" "1836 House of Representatives Chamber" and "First Ladies of Arkansas: Women of Their Time."

300 W Markham St, Little Rock, AR 72201-1406
501-324-9685 • *OldStateHouse.com*

United State Marshals Museum

Scheduled to open in the fall of 2020, the Mary Carleton and Robert A. Young III Building and Samuel M. Sicard Hall of Honor were dedicated along the banks of the Arkansas River in Fort Smith on September 24, 2019. Exhibits will soon follow.

Mary Carleton and Robert A. Young III Building
Intersection of H St and Riverfront Dr
Fort Smith, AR 72901
479-272-2456 • *USMMuseum.org*

Museum of Native American History

Discover the history of North America's indigenous people from the Paleo Period (16000 BC to 8000 BC) to the Historic Period (1650 AD to 1900 AD) at the museum. Visitors will enjoy the remarkable exhibits for their depth and diversity of

– COURTESY FORT SMITH CVB –

UNITED STATES MARSHALS MUSEUM
FORT SMITH, AR

materials and be inspired to travel West to discover more firsthand about the Native tribes of the Western United States.

292 Southwest O St, Bentonville, AR 72712
479-273-2456 • *MONAH.us*

Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie

Dedicated to the history of the town of Stuttgart, rice farming, waterfowl and Arkansas County, the museum in Stuttgart honors the county's history through four major exhibits: a replica of a Stuttgart's frontier Main Street; a two-thirds replica of the Prairie Church, the first Emanuel Lutheran Church that German immigrant Reverend Adam Buerkle built; the Waterfowl Wing; and the Farm Equipment exhibit.

921 E. Fourth St, Stuttgart, AR 72160
870-673-7001 • *GrandPrairieMuseum.org*

Kansas

Kansas Museum of History

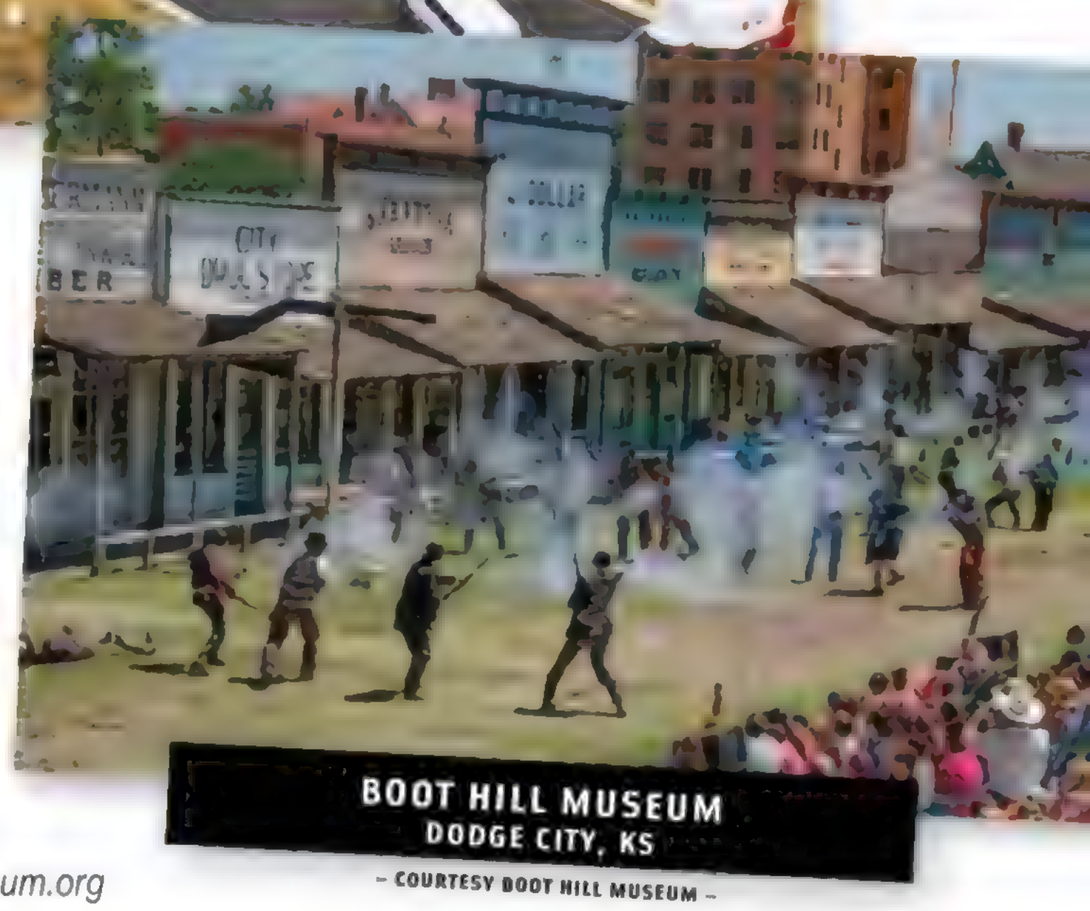
Under the management of the Kansas Historical Society, the museum is where visitors discover the rich and vibrant story of the Sunflower State. One of the eight wonders of Kansas history, the state's flagship museum has exhibits for everyone, including "Early People," "Forts and Trails," "Civil War" and the upcoming "105 Counties, 105 Stories."

6425 SW 6th Ave, Topeka, KS 66615
785-272-8681 • *KSHS.org*

Baxter Springs Heritage Center & Museum

Managed by the Baxter Springs Historical Society, the museum offers exhibits interpreting and educating visitors about the town's frontier development. A traditional area of the Osage Indian tribe, Baxter Springs was an important railhead for Texas cattle drives, a once-thriving lead- and zinc-mining town and a crossroads of the Civil War.

740 E Ave, Baxter Springs, KS 66713
620-856-2385 • *BaxterSpringsMuseum.org*



BOOT HILL MUSEUM
DODGE CITY, KS

– COURTESY BOOT HILL MUSEUM –

Boot Hill Museum

The museum, named one of the eight wonders of Kansas, is a first-class repository of Old West artifacts and exhibits. Construction is underway on the new Boot Hill Museum, expected to open in 2020, but most areas of the existing museum are open, including the Long Branch Saloon, People of the Plains building, the Rath General Store, the First Union Church and the Beeson Gallery.

500 W Wyatt Earp Blvd, Dodge City, KS 67801
620-227-8188 • *Boothill.org*

Frontier Army Museum

Fort Leavenworth's museum collects, preserves and safeguards one of the country's finest collections of 19th-century military artifacts. The Fort Leavenworth gallery highlights the importance of Fort Leavenworth's role in the exploration and expansion of the nation from Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery expedition to General John Pershing's chase of Pancho Villa into Mexico. All visitors follow all Army regulations to visit the base and tour the museum.

100 Reynolds Ave, Fort Leavenworth
Leavenworth, Kansas 66027
913-684-3191 • *ArmyUPress.Army.mil*

Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm Historic Site

Open year round, the living history center entertains and educates visitors about 1860s Kansas frontier life. All generations will enjoy learning about the day-to-day responsibilities of farm living, including the raising and caring of horses, chickens and other livestock. Don't

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miss a tour of the Agricultural Heritage Barn and its farm implement and wagon collection.

1200 E Kansas City Rd
Olathe, KS 66061
913-971-5111 • *Mahaffie.org*

Louisiana

Capitol Park Museum

The history of Louisiana comes alive through educational, introspective and interactive exhibits in the Capitol Park Museum. Discover the rich, and at times, complicated heritage of the Bayou State from the days of exploration to the slave markets, from the War of 1812 to New Orleans Jazz. Visitors will walk away with multiple new perspectives on the people and culture of Louisiana.

660 N 4th St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802
225-342-5428
LouisanaStateMuseum.org

The Cabildo

Located in New Orleans' French Quarter, the fully restored Cabildo is one of the most significant historic buildings in Louisiana. A state museum since 1908, the Cabildo was built by the Spanish in the late 1790s and is where the French transferred the Louisiana Purchase to the United States in 1803. Two exhibitions not to miss: "From 'Dirty Shirts' to Buccaneers: The Battle of New Orleans in American Culture" and "We Love You, New Orleans!"

701 Chartres St, New Orleans, LA 70130
504-568-6968 • *LouisianaStateMuseum.org*

Fort Jesup State Historic Site

Future United States President Lt. Col. Zachary Taylor was the first commanding officer of Fort Jesup, which was built in 1822 as a key outpost of U.S. interests in the border region between Louisiana and the then-Mexican state of Texas. A National Historic Landmark, the fort's officers' quarters have been reconstructed and house the interpretive center that provides visitors with an insightful understanding of

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Learn about former leaders of the Mexican Revolutions who were buried at Concordia.

Join the Secret Society of John Wesley Hardin - August 15, 2020 at 6 p.m., to commemorate John Wesley Hardin's demise—and on October 17, 2020, from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., for the annual "Walk Through History."

Exciting Monthly night time Ghost Tours held Saturday nights, 9-11pm, at Concordia Cemetery. Visit our Facebook Page @concordiacemetery for more information and dates.

Don't miss Dia De Los Muertos; Day of the Dead, November 7, 2020, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tours, shrines, exhibits and more.

915-842-8200 • ConcordiaCemetery.org • Facebook/concordiacemetery.
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318-357-3101 • *CRT.State.LA.us*

R.W. Norton Art Gallery

Opened in Shreveport in 1966, the gallery exhibits artwork that spans 4,000 years, including classic Western art of Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell. After a tour of the museum's galleries and its masterworks, sculptures, tapestries and decorative arts, enjoy a stroll through the botanical gardens that surround the museum. Admission is free.

4747 Creswell Ave, Shreveport, LA 71106
318-865-4201 • *RWNAF.org*

Tunica-Biloxi Museum

The unique historical center exhibits the "Tunica Treasure," a vast collection of repatriated American Indian-European trade items and other artifacts that the Tunica Indians deposited as grave goods from 1731 to 1764. Visitors will be fascinated to learn the history of Louisiana's Tunica-Biloxi tribe through the exhibits at the 40,000-square-foot Tunica-Biloxi Cultural and Educational Resources Center.

171 Yuroni Rd, Marksville, LA 71351
318-253-9767 • *TunicaBiloxi.org*

Missouri

Missouri History Museum

Discover firsthand the history and heritage of the Show Me State and St. Louis in the entertaining and educational exhibits at the Missouri History Museum. Permanent exhibitions include "Seeking St. Louis" and "The 1904 World's Fair," while upcoming short-term exhibits "The Mighty Mississippi" and "Beyond the Ballot" will grace the museum's halls until 2021.

5700 Lindell Blvd
St Louis, MO 63112
314-746-4599 • *MOHistory.org*

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KEARNEY, NE

The Archway

Kearney's unique attraction, The Archway, is a 79,000-square-foot center that stretches 310 feet across Interstate 80. The site, which opened in 2000, uses exhibits, videos, photographs and dioramas to highlight 170 years of transportation history, from Mormon handcarts on dusty trails to Cadillacs on the interstate. Re-enactors demonstrate how Pony Express riders changed horses and tell true and dramatic stories about the hardships of frontier travel.

3060 E 1st St, Kearney, NE 68847
308-237-1000 • *Archway.org*

Durham Museum

The museum, located in the impressive Art Deco railroad terminal, Union Station, opened in 1931 and now consists of 124,000 square feet of exhibits explaining the history and culture of the region. Visitors can step into a rawhide teepee of the type the Omaha Indians used on the prairie, sit by the fire in a replica dirt lodge and see an 1804 dollar bill, part of a massive collection of documents, books and coins.

801 S 10th St, Omaha, NE 68108
402-444-5071 • *DurhamMuseum.org*

Museum of the Fur Trade

Just down the road from Fort Robinson State Park in Crawford is the Museum of the Fur Trade in Chadron. Built on the historic site of frontier fur trader James Bordeaux's trading post, the museum exhibits over 6,000 fur-trade era firearms and explains in-depth the international trading network of furs that stretched around the world and built and broke empires. Visitors can tour a re-created Bordeaux trading post behind the museum's main building.

6321 Hwy 20, Chadron, NE 69337
308-432-3843 • *FurTrade.org*

Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer

Pioneer, farm and railroad stories come together in this re-created pioneer town. Costumed guides populate the buildings that include historic community structures, including Nebraska native Henry Fonda's childhood home. There is a Pawnee earth lodge, log cabin pioneer settlement, railroad engines and the Taylor Ranch store. The Gus Fonner Memorial Rotunda features Ellis Burman's plaster and bronze *The Arrowmaker*, a life-size sculpture of a Sioux Indian family.

3133 W US Hwy 34, Grand Island, NE 68801
308-385-5316 • *StuhrMuseum.org*

Ancient Ozarks Natural History Museum

One of the centerpieces of Top of the Rock is the Ancient Ozarks Natural History Museum, which houses founder Johnny Morris's Western art collection, artifacts and arrowheads. Take a tour and discover exhibits about the Old West, Civil War, American Indian cultures and even prehistoric creatures. Morris also has opened a showcase of his love for the outdoors, the 350,000-square-foot Johnny Morris's Wonders of Wildlife Museum & Aquarium in Springfield, Missouri.

150 Top of the Rock Rd, Ridgedale, MO 65739
800-255-6343 • *BigCedar.com*

Arabia Steamboat Museum

Visitors to the museum will tour exhibits including "Frontier Trade: A Pathway to Riches," which explains how commercial steamboat operations on the Missouri River from Kansas City, Missouri, to Fort Benton (in the future territory of Montana), influenced the fur trade, exploration and settlement of the territories from the Central Prairie to the Middle and Upper Missouri River basins.

400 Grand Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64106
816-471-1856 • *1856.com*

Pony Express Museum

The story of the Pony Express is told at a living history center where visitors can see a blacksmith shop, pump the original 1858 well to water Pony Express horses, learn how to load a wagon and understand the role of the Pony Express in linking the country before completion of the transcontinental telegraph. Buffalo Bill Cody promoted the Pony Express in his Wild West shows. See the printed program from his farewell show and watch video of Bill performing.

914 Penn St, St Joseph, MO 64503
816-279-5059 • *PonyExpress.org*

Patee House Museum and James Home

Originally built in 1858 as a luxury hotel, with hot and cold running water, the building later became a courtroom for the trial of Confederate officers, a women's college and a garment factory. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1965.

12-2 Penn St, St Joseph, MO 64503
816-232-8206 • *PonyExpressJesseJames.com*

Nebraska

Nebraska History Museum

Twelve thousand years of Nebraska history comes alive at the Cornhusker's State's flagship museum. From ancient times to the Oregon Trail, from homesteaders to railroaders, the cultural heritage of the Great Plains state is told in such diverse exhibitions as "Nebraska Unwrapped: Selections from the Collections" and "Votes for Women: Nebraska's Suffrage Story." Also, make sure to schedule time for a docent-led storytelling tour of the History Learning Center.

131 Centennial Mall N, Lincoln, NE 68508
402-471-4754 • *History.Nebraska.gov*

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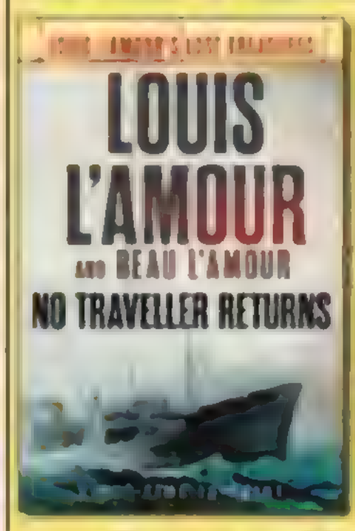

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Western Roundup

FOR DECEMBER 2019

CHRISTMAS FESTIVALS

LIGHT OF THE WORLD CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Minden, NE, December 1, 7 and 8: Minden celebrates "104 Years of Lights" with 15,000 lights strung throughout downtown.

308-832-1811 • *MindenNE.org*

HOLIDAY TROLLEY TOUR OF LIGHTS AT LIED LODGE

Nebraska City, NE, weekends December 6-28: Climb aboard the Arbor Day Farm trolley for a tour of Historic Nebraska City and a show of Christmas lights.

800-546-5433 • *LiedLodge.org*

CHRISTMAS AT THE CODYS'

North Platte, NE, December 6-7, 13-14, 20-21: Celebrate the holidays in Buffalo Bill Cody's 1886 mansion with caroling and horse-drawn rides.

308-535-0835 • *VisitNorthPlatte.com*

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARADE

Pecos, TX, December 6: Watch a Christmas parade with brightly decorated floats and live music, in the town that boasts that it hosted the world's first rodeo in 1883.

432-445-2406 • *VisitPecos.com*

CHRISTMAS PAST AND PRESENT

Grand Island, NE, December 7-8, 13-14: This lamp-lit tour of Railroad Town offers live music in a festive celebration of the spirit of Christmas.

308-385-5316 • *StuhrMuseum.org*

HIGH PLAINS CHRISTMAS

Gering, NE, December 7: This High Plains holiday gathering features hayrides, marshmallow roasts and bonfire cowboy coffee.

308-436-1989 • *LegacyOfThePlains.org*

PRESCOTT CHRISTMAS PARADE & COURTHOUSE LIGHTING

Prescott, AZ, December 7: The beloved Christmas Parade begins at 1 p.m., with the 65th annual lighting ceremony of the courthouse at 6 p.m.

928-777-1552 • *Prescott.com*

CHRISTMAS PARADE OF LIGHTS & CHILI COOK-OFF

Dodge City, KS, December 9: Celebrate the season at the 18th annual Parade of Lights and Chili Cook-off.

800-653-9378 • *VisitDodgeCity.org*

WICKENBURG CHRISTMAS PARADE OF LIGHTS

Wickenburg, AZ, December 13: Enjoy the beauty of the holiday season amid the glittering lights of the 25th Annual Christmas Parade of Lights "Out Wickenburg Way!"

928-684-5479 • *WickenburgChamber.com*

CHRISTMAS LIGHT PARADE & LIGHTING OF THE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE LUMINARIES

Tombstone, AZ, December 14: The entire family will enjoy the event which includes Santa and his sleigh, street caroling and great Old West fun.

520-457-9317 • *TombstoneChamber.com*

A FRONTIER ARMY CHRISTMAS AT FORT LARNED

Larned, KS, December 14: The annual Christmas Past celebration includes 1860s holiday food, carriage rides, 19th-century crafts and games for the children.

620-285-6911 • *NPS.gov*

SINGING IN THE SADDLE

Bandera, TX, December 14-15: Join Santa for a Christmas Caroling Trail Ride around Bandera. Wagons or buggies are available for non-riders, as space allows. Bring

your guitar if you'd like. The ride leaves promptly at 1:00 p.m.

830-796-4447 • *BanderaCowboyCapital.com*

VICTORIAN HOLIDAY CELEBRATION HOLIDAY LIGHT FOREST

Georgetown, CO, December 26-January 5, 2020: Enjoy hot cocoa, cookies and candy canes with Santa and his helpers aboard decorated train coaches.

888-456-6777 • *GeorgetownLoopRR.com*

POETRY GATHERINGS

WICKENBURG COWBOY CHRISTMAS POETRY GATHERING

Wickenburg, AZ, December 6-7: Enjoy this special two-day Western heritage event at the Desert Caballeros Western Museum.

928-684-5479 • *WickenburgChamber.com*

GUN SHOW

BIG TOWN PREMIER GUN SHOW

Mesquite, TX, December 14-15: Visit the Premier Gun Show and its 750 tables at Big Town. The public is invited to buy, sell or trade.

817-732-1194 • *PremierGunShows.com*

RODEO

WRANGLER NATIONAL FINALS RODEO & COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

Las Vegas, NV, December 5-14: The Wrangler NFR, the culmination of the rodeo season, is the richest and most prestigious rodeo in the world.

702-260-8605 • *NFRExperience.com*

CHRISTMAS AT OLD FORT CONCHO

San Angelo, TX, December 6-8: This 1867 fort celebrates the different cultures of Texas with three days full of Christmas cheer, including shopping, living history and much more on the historic fort grounds.

325-481-2646 • *FortConcho.com*

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Hero of the Plains

Marshall Trimble is Arizona's official historian and vice president of the Wild West History Association. His latest book is *Arizona Oddities: Land of Anomalies and Tamales;* History Press, 2018. If you have a question, write: Ask the Marshall, P.O. Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327 or e-mail him at marshall.trimble@scottsdalecc.edu

This illustration in James Buel's *Heroes of the Plains* depicts Wild Bill Hickok's legendary fight with 15 men on July 17, 1870.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

What can you tell me about a fight between Wild Bill Hickok and some soldiers?

Joe Manriquez
Whittier, California

It took place on July 17, 1870, at Paddy Welch's saloon in Hays City, Kansas. A couple of drunken troopers from Custer's 7th Cavalry jumped Hickok. Jeremiah Lonergan, a pugilist of local renown, ran up and threw his arms around Hickok, pinning his arms and wrestling him to the floor. Meanwhile, John Kile pulled his Army issue revolver out from inside his blouse, stuck the muzzle in Hickok's ear and pulled the trigger. Fortunately for Hickok, it misfired.

As the three men grappled on the floor, Hickok was able to draw his weapon and fire a shot into Lonergan's knee, which forced the soldier to release his grip. Hickok then fired twice, mortally wounding Kile. He died at Fort Hays the following day.

Unsure of how many other troopers might join the fray, Hickok made his escape by jumping through a window. He went to his room, grabbed his Winchester and a hundred rounds of ammunition and hid out in the Boot Hill cemetery. The next day he headed for the Big Creek Station and boarded a train leaving town.

The military did not pursue charges because the two soldiers were off duty at the time and they had been involved in a barroom brawl. Longergan recovered but was later killed in another brawl.

As the years went by, the story of the fight in Paddy's saloon grew with each telling—until James Buel had Hickok fighting 15 soldiers, killing three, wounding two and suffering seven wounds himself. Buel's version also had General Phil Sheridan ordering Hickok brought in "dead or alive," which was a tall tale.

Is there a source that gives the location of stagecoach robberies in Arizona?

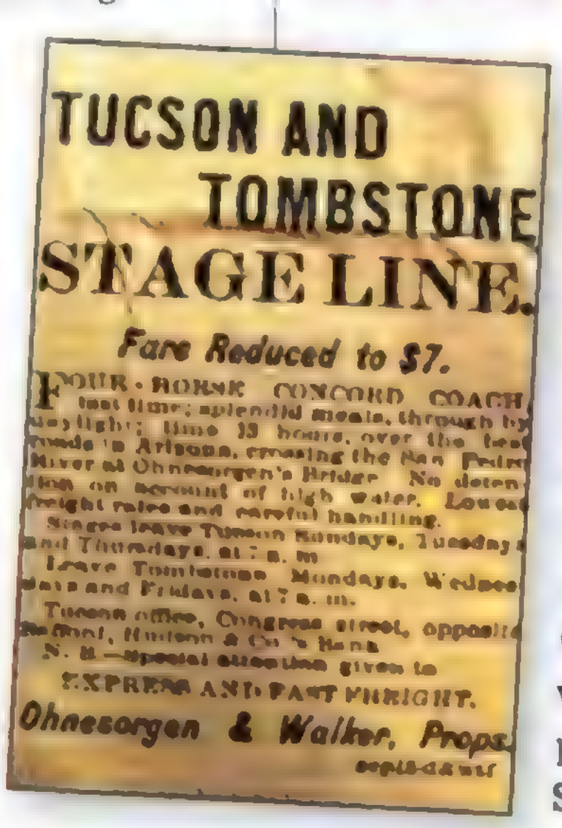
David Vorie
Oatman, Arizona

Between 1875 and 1903, there were 129 stage robberies in Arizona—and five of them involved two coaches each. Contrary to the movies, in which mounted men chased down a stage and robbed it, only three were robbed that way. The rest were robbed by highwaymen afoot. They'd select a site where the stagecoach had to slow down and they'd walk up to the vehicle with guns drawn. More than half the stage robberies remained unsolved.

More than 200 people were engaged in the stage-robbing business in Arizona. Only 80 were identified—79 men and one woman.

The worst areas for stagecoach robberies were around Tombstone-Bisbee and the Black Canyon Stage Line between Phoenix and Prescott that follows I-17 today.

Check out Richard Patterson's *Historical Atlas of the Outlaw West*. You might also want to contact Wide World of Maps in Phoenix (602-279-2323). It's a good source for old maps of Arizona.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- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

Why do most stories about the Trail of Tears talk only about the Cherokees and ignore what happened to the Creeks?

Paul Gomez
Midland Texas

Funny you should bring that up. I have an ancestor who was on the Creek Trail of Tears. Their story is every bit as tragic as that of the Cherokees. The Creeks were one of the most powerful tribes in the Southeast. In 1836, they were exiled from their lands by land speculators and trespassers and even betrayed by some of their own leaders. Some 22,500 Creeks were forced from Georgia, Alabama and Florida and marched in chains to Oklahoma. My ancestor was adopted by a family in Arkansas; many Creeks gave up their children, fearing a much worse fate awaited them in what would one day become Oklahoma.

Olive Oatman's capture, kidnapping and subsequent rescue is one of frontier history's most infamous cases of Indian white slavery.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

How often did Indians take captives?

Pete Winstanley

Maltby, South Yorkshire, England

From the earliest days of the American frontier, the taking of captives was a common practice. Adult men were rarely if ever taken alive, but boys often grew up in the tribe and chose to remain. Same with little girls and young women. Some of the captives were later ransomed, and few were rescued by troops. And rescued is the right word, for life as a captive could be horrific. There were dozens of accounts of rape, beatings, abuse, enslavement, disfigurement and other acts of brutality. It was not a pretty picture.

Books on captives include *A Fate Worse Than Death* by Thomas Goodrich. Another is Lynn Bailey's *Indian Slave Trade in t he Southwest*. According to Roy Young, Wild West History Association vice president, two of the best are *The Boy Captives* by Clinton L. Smith and *The Captured—A True Story of Abduction by Indians on the Texas Frontier* by Scott Zesch.

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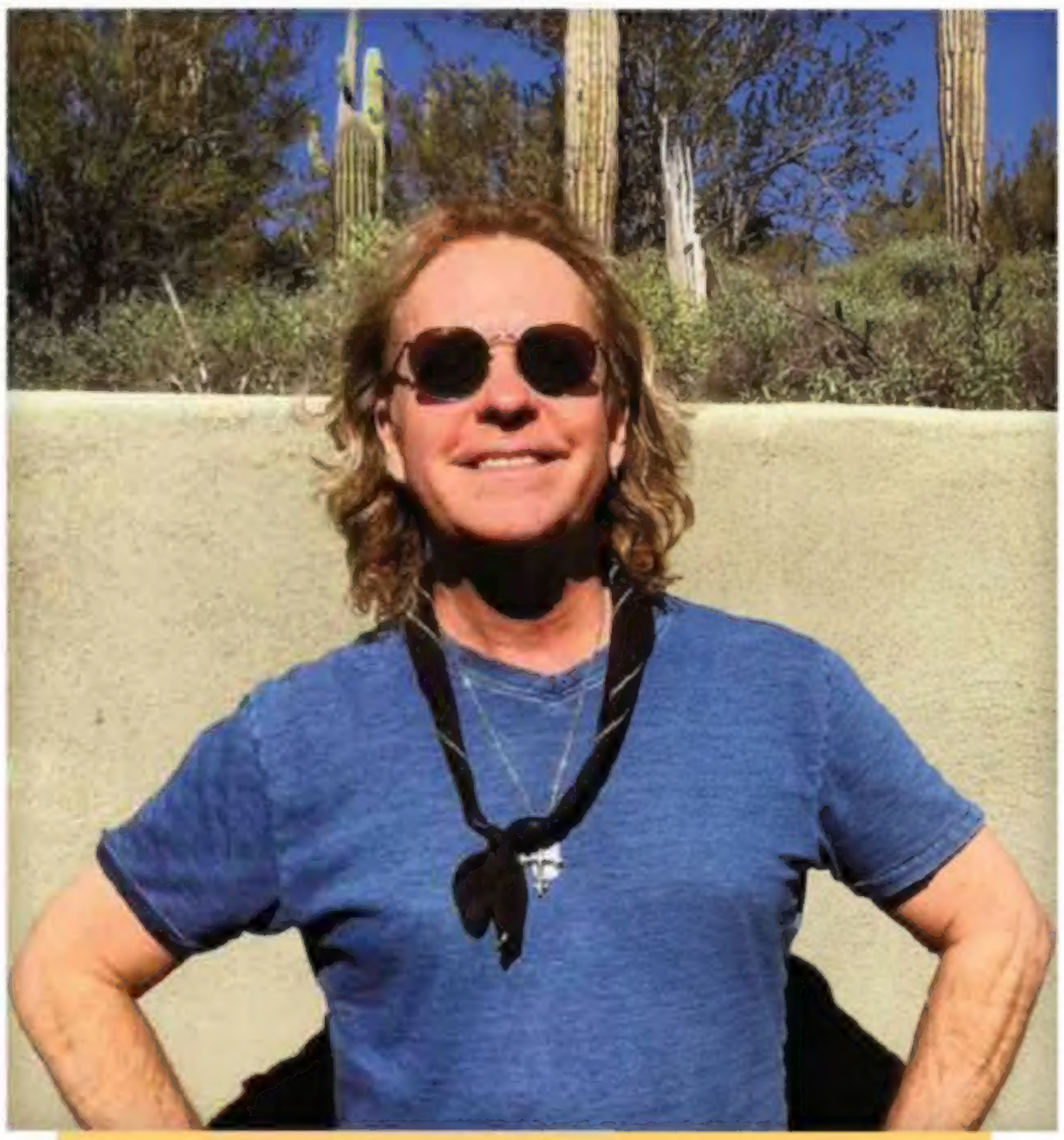
What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

Award-winning rock bassist and vocalist Jack Blades, who grew up in the Southwest, still tours regularly with Night Ranger, but rumors abound on a reunion with Damn Yankees' bandmates Ted Nugent and Tommy Shaw.

– PHOTO BY BOB BOZE BELL –



As a kid I enjoyed playing in the desert. I was raised between Palm Desert, California, and Scottsdale, Arizona. In Palm Desert we lived right down the street from Hopalong Cassidy so the Wild West really permeated my very being.

Not many people know that I had a disease known as Legg-Perthes that affects the hip bone socket in small children. I was on crutches with my left leg up in a sling from six to 10 years old. As I couldn't play sports, my parents gave me a guitar at about eight years old...a little $2 plastic ukulele. That's how the music started for me.

My first gig was my brother and I called ourselves "The JB's"—our initials. I was 10 and my brother was 12. We would put on Beatle wigs and do Beatles songs at Rotary Club meetings, Kiwanis club functions, ladies golf club functions, stuff like that. People thought the name meant "The Junior Beatles."

The hardest part about being on the road is being away from my family. When we took breaks on tour I would keep a tour bus, get my wife and kids on it, and cruise around the country visiting sites...Gettysburg, New York City, Chicago etc., some fun times for sure.

It doesn't get much better than knowing some song I wrote while I was sitting in my bedroom one day kept a kid from taking his own life. Maybe saving that one life is the whole reason I became a musician.

Trying to make a living doing music has taught me that persistence pays off. Every record label passed on Night Ranger—twice! We just had to find that one person who believed in us and we did.

I like to collect U.S. military items from about the Civil War onward but my real love and focus is anything related to Roosevelt's Rough Riders during the Spanish American War of 1898—uniforms, equipment, weapons, documents, reunion items. I love it all.

I got into collecting because my mother's first husband was killed in World War II at the Battle of the Bulge. Before he died he sent back an SS dagger and a pair of German binoculars with the artillery grid in the lens. Those things always fascinated me growing up so when I started touring with the band in 1982 I would frequent antique and junk shops all over the country. One could find great stuff out there—pre-internet and eBay of course!

The secret to a good marriage is never going to bed mad at each other. Clearing everything up before the lights go out...well, usually...clears everything up.

JACK BLADES, ROCK MUSICIAN

Rock 'n' roll bassist-singer Jack Blades has been a touring professional rock musician since he joined the San Francisco funk band Rubicon in 1976. In 1982, he co-founded the rock band Night Ranger, which he is currently touring with. He is also well known for his on-again, off-again membership in the rock groups Damn Yankees, Shaw Blades, Tak Matsumoto Group and Revolution Saints. All told, he and his bands have sold more than 25 million albums. Blades and his wife, Mollie, have been married since 1977. They have two sons, Colin and James.

My favorite Western is *Tombstone*. Val Kilmer should have gotten an Academy Award for his portrayal of Doc Holliday.

My favorite place in the West to escape to is Sedona. When I was growing up in Arizona we used to go camping at Red Rock Crossing every summer for two weeks.

The best advice I ever received was from my dad, who said, "Son, don't ever count on anyone but yourself to get by in this world." Best advice I ever got.

History has taught me that you can't judge the past by the current time period's ideals and morals; it just doesn't work that way.

My next gig is going to be the lead role in "Tombstone 2"—the sequel!

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